THE HINDOO PATRIOT

With which is incorporated the Indian Field.

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THE WEEK.

MONDAY, 12TH FEBRUARY.

THE LAST NUMBER of the *Colonial Intelligencer*, the organ of the Aborigenes' Protection Society, contains a full report of the attack of Mr. Stanley, the African traveller, on the Natives of Bambireh an Island in Lake Victoria Nayanza. It appears that when Mr. Stanley arrived at Bambireh the Natives dragged his boat ashore, and assumed an attitude so hostile that he apprehended serious consequences to himself and to his party. Mr. Stanley, according to his own account, was able to get off his boat and resume his voyage without having suffered any of the dreadful things which he supposed it was the intention of the natives to inflict upon him. But Mr. Stanley took time in severely punishing the people of Bambireh for their unfriendly conduct. We subjoin Mr. Stanley's own account of what took place:

"As soon as I saw the savages had arrived in the presence of Shekka with our drum, I shouted to my men to push the boat into the water. With one desperate effort my crew of eleven hands lifted and shot it far into the lake, the impetus they had given it causing it to drag them all into deep waters. In the meantime the savages, uttering a furious howl of disappointment and baffled rage, came rushing like a whirlwind towards their canoes at the water's edge. I discharged my elephant rifle with its two large conical balls into their midst; and then, assisting one of the crew into the boat, told him to help his fellows in while I continued to fight. My double-barrelled shot gun, loaded with buck-shot, was next discharged with terrible effect, for, without drawing a single bow or launching a single spear, they fell back up the slope of the hill, leaving us to exert our wits to get ourselves out of the cove before the enemy should decide to man their canoes. My crew was composed of picked men, and in this dire emergency they did ample justice to my choice. Though we were without oars, they were at no loss for a substitute. As soon as they found themselves in the boat they tore up the seats and footboards, and began to paddle, while I was left to single out with my rifles the most prominent and boldest of the enemy. Twice in succession I succeeded in dropping men determined on launching the canoes, and seeing the sub-chief, who had commanded the party that took the drum, I took deliberate aim with my elephant rifle at him. That bullet, as I have since been told, killed the chief and two others who happened to be standing a few paces behind him; and the extraordinary result had more effect, I think, on the superstitious minds of the natives than all previous or subsequent shots. On getting out of the cove we saw two canoes loaded with men coming out in pursuit from another small inlet. I permitted them to approach within 100 yards of us, and this time I used the elephant rifle with explosive balls. Four shots killed five men and sank the canoes. This decisive affair disheartened the enemy and we were left to persue our way unmolested, not, however without hearing a ringing voice shouting out to us, 'Go and die in the Nlyanza.' When the savages counted their losses, they found fourteen dead and wounded with ball and buckshot, which although I should consider to be very dear payment for the robbery of eight ash oars and a drum, was barely equivalent, in fair estimation, to the intended massacre of ourselves."

This, however, was not enough. Mr. Stanley determined to make war on Bambireh itself, and accordingly he organized a force of 280 men, and 50 musketeers with 230 spearmen, who were placed in a fleet of eighteen canoes. Forty-two men were stricken down dead, and over a hundred were seen to retire wounded, while on Mr. Stanley's side only two men suffered contusions from stones slung at them.

THE ABORIGINES' PROTECTION SOCIETY took this matter up and submitted a memorial to Lord Derby, the Foreign Secretary. They stated that Mr. Stanley's narrative contained no evidence to justify the belief that the savages had intended to massacre his party, but even if his surmise were proved to be correct, they were of opinion that the murderous acts of retaliation he committed, were unworthy of a man who went to Africa professedly as a pioneer of civilization. Explosive bullets are prohibited in civilized warfare; but Mr. Stanley did not hesitate to use them at Bambireh. The Society continued:

"We respectfully submit to your lordship that the destruction of the forty-two human beings who were struck dead by Mr. Stanley's bullets, together with the probable death of many of the hundred or more who received agonizing wounds from explosive bullets, was an act of brutal and ruthless vengeance, which calls for severe animadversion, if not for stronger measures, on the part of her Majesty's government. Your lordship will observe that Mr. Stanley was not called upon to return to Bambireh in the performance of any of the legitimate duties of his mission. He returned there solely from motives of revenge; and in order to gratify that feeling, he fired upon a defenceless mob of Africans who, according to his own account, had subjected him to no positive injury. It therefore follows, that whatever excuse may be made for the first attack, the second deserves to be stigmatized as a massacre. We shall look with dismay upon the future of the African continent if exploration is hereafter to be conducted on principles so entirely at variance with the practice of Livingstone and Speke, and of every other explorer of renown. Moreover, we think there is too much reason to fear that hereafter some innocent traveller or pioneer of commercial enterprise will suffer for Mr. Stanley's sanguinary deeds at Bambireh. On account of such persons, as well as for the sake of humanity, we ask for your lordship's interference.

We do not know whether Mr. Stanley is an American or a British subject, but we are informed that he is a native of this country, and it is, of course, notorious that he has gone to Africa as the representative of an enterprising English journal. Your lordship will also perceive that Mr. Stanley hoisted the English flag, an act which presupposes complicity on our part with his sinister proceedings, and therefore appears to us imperatively to call for an official repudiation of his claim to be regarded as a representative of England.

We are glad to observe that the Aborgines' Protection Society thus condemned in fitting terms the diffusion of civilization by means of the rifle.

LORD DERBY took a prompt notice of the memorial of the Aborigines' Protection Society. We subjoin his Lordship's reply:

FOREIGN OFFICE,
October 21st, 1876.

SIR,—The Earl of Derby has received and has given his careful consideration to the memorial from the Anti-Slavery and Aborigines Protection Societies, which was enclosed in your letter of the 28th ultimo, relative to the proceedings of Mr. Stanley in the interior of Africa. His lordship has read, with great regret, reports of the circumstances which seem to have taken place in connexion with that traveller's explorations, and which have created such a painful impression in this country.

It is however, impossible, for his lordship to take any direct action in the matter, inasmuch as Mr. Stanley not being a British subject, her Majesty's Government have no authority over him; but his lordship cannot but hope, looking to the character which Mr. Stanley has won in this country by his expedition in search of Dr. Livingstone, that he may eventually be able to afford some explanation or justifications, of his proceedings, which is not apparent from the reports which have been as yet received.

I am to add that Mr. Stanley has no authority to hoist the British flag, and that Lord Derby will cause her Majesty's Consuls on the East Coast of Africa to be instructed to intimate this to him, if any opportunity of communicating with him should be open to them. In the meanwhile, his lordship will forward copies of this correspondence to the United States Minister in London, in order that he may be aware of the feeling which the reports of Mr. Stanley's proceeding have aroused.

I am, sir, &c. (Signed) T. V. LISTEN

To the Secretary of the
Aborigines Protection Society.

It remains to be seen what notice America will take of this ruthless act of vengenance of their "pioneer of civilization."

IN THE same number of the *Colonial Intelligencer* the Secretary to the Aborigines' Protection Society gives a very interesting account of the education of Native races in British Colonies. Of Australia he says:

"It is notorious that the aborigines of Australia live in a state of the utmost degradation; and that, with the added influence of European vice and disease, they are rapidly diminishing in numbers. Living in a country the climate of which is subjected to great variations—driven from their most fertile lands into sterile districts where they often find it difficult to obtain either food or water—not unfrequently shot like wild beasts by relentless squatters or by ill-disciplined bodies of their countrymen who are organized for the purpose—exposed to rain and tempest, without either clothing or shelter to protect them—and perpetually liable to the attacks of destructive diseases of European origin, without having the means, in the majority of cases, of obtaining medical treatment—who can wonder that they should bid fair to share the fate of so many native races that have already melted away?

In Queensland hardly any thing has been done to promote the settlement or civilization of the natives; and in the pastoral districts of that colony, as well as more recently on the banks of the Palmer, a chronic state of warfare may be said to exist In the Mauritius out of nearly forty thousand Indian children between the ages of five and fourteen, only one thousand are receiving any education at all. In New Zealand laudable efforts have been made by both the Government and the missionaries, to extend to the Maori race the benefits of education.

MR. FOWLER M P., who visited India last year, made the following remarks about this country at the last meeting of the Aborigines' Protection Society:

"He referred to a letter from India in the preceding day's *Times*, and eulogized the conduct of Lord Lytton in the case of the homicide at Agra. He justified the language of Lord Salisbury as to the coldness between Europeans and natives being "full of injustice and possibly danger." He quoted the opinion of Mr. Martin Wood, late editor of the *Times of India*, concurring with Lord Salisbury. He believed that the great statesmen who govern India were sensible of the importance of treating the natives with every consideration, but he feared that the lower classes of the Government service and the commercial classes were jealous of native competition, and apt to treat the natives badly. He urged the duty of developing civilization in India, and educating the natives to share in the Government.

THE ABORIGINES' PROTECTION SOCIETY lately brought to the notice of the Colonial Secretary the outrages committed by the Boers of the Transvaal Republic upon the Kaffirs. We give their memorial below:

"We are desired by the committee of the Aborigines Potection Society to request your lordship's kind attention to statements published in South Africa journals, which describe various acts of atrocity alleged to have been committed on the Kaffirs by a force of Transvaal Boers, under the command of Captain Van Schlickman. Details are given of several brutal murders, of which defenceless native women—one of them with an infant in her arms—were the victims. It is said that ten women were shot to death, and in two instances in particular, the murders appear to have been attended by circumstances of the most deliberate and diabolical cruelty. We think it is highly probable that these facts have already been brought under your lordship's notice, and the despatch which you lately addresed to the Government of the Cape Colony is a sufficient pledge of your lordship's determination to put a stop, if possible, to outrages so disgraceful to human nature, and at the same time so fraught with danger to the cause of peace and civilization in South Africa. But the Committee's object is to direct your lordship's attention to the fact that English subjects are charged with being directly concerned, in these murders. The *Goldfields Mercury* states that in August 20th last a party of horsemen left the Steelpore Lager for the purpose of scouring the neighbouring mountains, and that during the expedition they met several women who had been to obtain a supply of meat. "The first one," we read, "was quite a young woman who was wounded by a young Englishman (who pleads that he did not know that it was a woman) and then shot through the head by another Englishman as she lay upon the ground." It appears that the name of the latter person is well known, and although some time has elapsed since the publication of the original story the facts, as stated, in spite of Captain Von Schlickman's denial of them, appear to be generally accepted as true in the Cape Colony.

"The Committee beg respectfully to express a hope that your lordship will take steps to endeavour to bring to justice any British subjects who can be proved to have been guilty of participating, either as principals or accessories, in that or similar barbarities in the war which is now going on in the neighbourhood of the Transvaal Republic."

The following is Lord Carnarvon's reply:

"I am to acquaint you that Lord Carnarvon has seen the reports of these crimes with the greatest pain and anxiety, and that he has more than once addressed the Governor of the Cape of Good Hope on the subject of them. In the present disordered condition of the Transvaal it is extremely difficult to carry on any of the ordinary communications with a neighbouring Government, or to obtain any of the ordinary objects of such communications, but Lord Carnarvon has instructed Sir Henry Barkly to press for further inquiry into the horrible occurrences referred to by you and it is to be hoped that the President of the Transvaal Republic will respond to his demand by causing a searching investigation to be made; but his lordship does not see how at this moment the perpetrators of the deeds (supposing the facts prove to be as stated) can be made amenable to justice in an English court of law.

How is it that Mr. Gladstone and his compatriots, who are so loud in their sympathy with the oppressed Christians of Turkey, have nothing to say about the barbarities committed upon the poor Kaffirs of Africa?

TUESDAY, 13TH FEBRUARY.

DR. JOHN MUIR has been elected an Honorary Member of the Asiatic Society of Bengal in the room of the late Professor C. Lassen. The following, were the grounds on which the recommendation was made:

Mr. John Muir, D.C.L., LL.D., Ph.D. was elected a member of this Society in July 1837, and up to 1854, when he retired from the country, took a deep interest in the labours of the Society. He was an occasional contributor to the Journal of the Society and attracted considerable attention by his contributions on Sanskrit Literature and Philosophy to the pages of the *Benares Magazine*. His life of Jesus Christ, in Sanskrit verse, established his reputation as a profound Sanskrit scholar. Since his retirement from India, he has been most assiduously engaged in oriental researches, and his essays in the Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain attest the success with which he has prosecuted them. His great work, however, is his "Sanskrit Texts," in the five volumes of which he has brought together the matured fruits of a long life of patient reading and research, and an amount of learning and critical acumen which place him in the foremost rank among the oriental scholars of the day. His generous gift towards the founding of a Sanskrit chair in the University of Edinburgh and the prizes given by him for essays on Indian Philosophy, and a translation of the Vedanta Sutras also deserve honourable mention.

THE FOLLOWING CUSTOMS REGULATION has been issued in Russia from the 1st January 1877—"all Customs duties are to be paid in gold, but, until 1st January, 1878, payment of Customs duties not exceeding 100 roubles, may, by way of a temporary exception be effected in paper roubles, *but on the condition that in this case the duties shall be paid in rouble.*" In other words, the Russian Government will take its own depreciated paper at half its nominal value. All the gold in the country will thus gravitate to the National Exchequer, and means will be provided to satisfy, for some time at least, the demands of uncompromising foreign creditors, who are not likely to estimate Russian roubles even at half their nominal amount. This significant fact shews whether Russia is prepared to fight.

PERSONS afflicted with baldness will be glad to learn that a luxuriant growth of hair may be produced by a

very simple process, described by Consul Stevens in his commercial report on Nicolaef for the past year, which has just been issued. A former servant of the Consul's, prematurely bald, whose duty it was to trim lamps, had a habit of wiping his petroleum-besmeared hands in the scanty locks which remained to him, and after three months of lamp-trimming experienced, his dirty habit procured for him a much finer head of glossy black hair than he ever possessed before in his recollection. Struck by this remarkable occurrence, Consul Stevens tried the remedy on two retriever spaniels that had become suddenly bald, with wonderful success. Accordingly he recommends that the petroleum should be of the best refined American qualities, rubbed in vigorously and quickly with the palm of the hand, and applied at intervals of three days, six or seven times in all, except in the case of horse's tails and manes, when more applications may be requisite. This is bad news for wig and chignon-makers.

THE FOLLOWING statistics of population of European countries are interesting. Denmark, with an area of 700 geographical square miles, contains a population of 2,000,000 inhabitants, equal to about 2,857 inhabitants to each square mile, while Greece, with an area of 950 geographical square miles, has a population of 1,400,000 souls equal to 2,474 to each square mile. Norway, with an area of 5,800 geographical square miles, has a population of 2,000,000, or only 350 to the square mile; Sweden with 8,000 geographical square miles, and population of 4,500,300 equal to 562 to the square mile; Russia, with about 350,000 geographical square miles and some 80,000,000 inhabitants, equal to 230 to the square mile; and Portugal, with 1,725 geographical square miles and 3,500,000 inhabitants, or 2,030 to the square mile, all are much more thinly peopled than Denmark. Spain, with 9,200 geographical square miles and 17,000,000 inhabitants, shows 1,850 to each square mile; France, with 10,000 geographical square miles and 37,000,000 inhabitants, gives 3,700; and England, with 5,500 geographical square miles and 30,000,000 inhabitants, shows 5,454 to each geographical square mile.

A LIST of the principal winners of English and Scotch races during the season of 1876, which is published in *Bell's Life*, shows that Count de Lagrange won 20 races and £17,500; Lord Dupplin, 16 races and £14,360; Lord Rosebery, 24 races and £13,290; Lord Falmouth, 23 races and £10,410; Sir Georege Chetwynd, 41 races and £7,874; and Mr. J. H. Houldsouth, 25 races and £9,371.

IT MAY not be generally known that to supply the wants of England alone, the number of elephants killed annually amounts to no less than fifty thousand. The ivory is chiefly imported from Zanziber and Siam, the former supplying the best, while that from the latter country is the kind used for ornamental purposes. There is a third quality, of a silvery grey colour, sent to England from the countries south of the equator. But what of the "white elephants" of the Indian Government and municipalities?

WEDNESDAY, 14TH FEBRUARY.

THE COURT JOURNAL, we quote the *Civil and Military Gazette*, tells us that fashionable ladies have their stockings powdered with gold dust. We know that at the latter end

> "Golden lads and lasses must,
> Like chimney sweepers come to dust."

But the latter end of fashionable ladies must be now covered with gold dust, and "down with your dust" will have a literal significance henceforth.

THE PROCLAMATION articles in the Russian newspapers are described by the correspondent of the *Times* as sarcastic and violent. The *Invalide* declares that Shere Ali "declined to lower his position" by accepting Lord Lytton's invitation; and that the Khan of Khelat only came because his yearly salary was increased. *Vidomosti*, that in spite of the Imperial Assemblage, Shere Ali is arming himself against us, whilst the native princes are hostile, and the Government itself knows but too well the insecurity of its position. The St. Petersburg *Exchange Gazette*, the leading commercial paper of the Empire, adds that "the strongest guarantee of England's hold on India is Russia's acquiescence in the continuance of British power in Asia." Bravo!

THE ANGLO-ORIENTAL COLLEGE at Allyghur seems to have a grand future before her. Lord Northbrook subscribed Rs. 1,000, the late Maharajah of Puttiala gave Rs. 58,000 and the Maharaja of Benares and the Maharaja of Vizianagram offered equally large contributions. The Nizam of Hyderabad has given a donation of Rs 9 ,000, and the Museum attached to the college is to be called after the name of the princely donor.

IT IS stated that Major Evelyn Baring, Private Secretary to our late Viceroy, has been offered, and has accepted an appointment under the Khedive of Egypt worth £3,000 a year. Major Baring will be an acquisition to the Khedive. When he was in India it was commonly said that it was two heads, which governed the country.

PUNDIT NAIN, the great Hindu explorer, connected with the Trignometrical Survey, is disabled and retires on pension. He will receive from Government the grant of a village in Rohilkund and a gratuity of one thousand rupees. His first great exploit, says the *Englishman*, consisted in the survey of the upper course of the Brahmaputra, from Lake Mansarowara to Lhasa. This was rewarded by the Royal Geographical Society by the present of a gold watch, which was unfortunately subsequently stolen by one of the Pundit's own pupils. His other great feat (which has mainly helped to shatter his constitution) was his survey of over 1,300 miles (also in Thibetan territory) from Ladak, by a previously unknown route, to Lhasa, and thence by the Towang route into British territory. He was formerly the head-master of a school in Kumaon.

THURSDAY, 15TH FEBRUARY.

A CORRESPONDENT from Bannu (Punjab) whose letter we are sorry we cannot publish *in extenso* sends us a very flattering account of Major P. C. Rynd commanding the 3rd Regiment P.N.I. What makes the matter specially worthy of notice is his uniform kindness to the men of this regiment and all those who have any connection with him or come in contact with him. The Major is so popular in the station that on his return from Europe lately he was received with an ovation, and there were rejoicings and festivities in commemoration of the event. The Commander-in-Chief arrived at Bannu on the 28th ultimo when the heavens were weeping and in spite of this dreary weather 200 of the Waziries chiefs and men of the border advanced one stage to receive His Excellency.

IT GIVES us great pleasure to notice that Munshi Peary Lal's exertions in the cause of marriage reform are meeting with success in Northern India. We learn from a Barrielly correspondent that about 500 gentlemen of the Kayust caste of that station have made an economy pledge in regard to marriage expenses and that some marriages amongst them were lately celebrated under the rules laid down by the Munshi. We hear that the head-men of other castes have invited the Munshi to inaugurate his system amongst them.

WE GLEAN from the official weather report for the week ending 10th instant the following particulars regarding the extent of the injury done by the strong wind of Sunday the 4th current. At Goalundo alone 35 boats sunk. A furious gale, which lasted 25 minutes, some of the gusts of which were as strong as those of last cyclone swept over the district of Backergunge, and caused some destruction of boats and other property. A storm passed over the station of Ncakhally about midday on the 4th instant, but did not continue long. At Dacca four persons and many cows died from cold on the 4th idem. In the district of Balasore a considerable number of cattle perished from the rain, wind and cold. In the Patna, Bhaugulpore and Chota Nagpore divisions there were hail-storms which have done no end of mischief. The recent rains have considerably injured the rubbee crops everywhere as well as stacked paddy in open and pulses and seeds. They have only benefitted indigo and sugarcane.

THE FOLLOWING is the diploma of election to the French Academy received by Dr. Showrendra Mohun Tagore:

Degrees.

The Rajah Showrindro Mohun Tagore, President of the Bengal Music School is appointed *Academicael Officer.*

Countersigned

The Chief of the Registration and Archives, (Sd.) Doro

Given in Paris, the 24th November 1876. (Sd.) Waddington.

The worthy Doctor has received along with this diploma a decoration of laurel leaves in silver, prettily enamelled. The laurel is a thing of exquisite beauty.

IT IS AMUSING to observe how our morning contemporaries shift the blame upon the unfortunate native. Referring to the case of the Kalighat murderer the *Statesman* reads a lecture to the Native Press, but if our contemporary will refer to the files of the *Englishman* and the *Indian Daily News* he will find that it was these papers, which first pleaded for mercy for the murderer, the first in his leading columns and the second under the head of *Law Intelligence*. The latter, however, true to his character changed color as soon as he saw the decision of the Lieutenant Governor, and in his overland edition charged the natives with sickly sentimentality. No respectable native paper had supported the petition on behalf of Jodunath Gunguli. Rhidoy Patra's case was different; in that case an important principle was involved; and it needs be added that the movement about it was set on foot not by natives but by some leading members of the Calcutta bar.

THE NEW BISHOP of Calcutta has been duly installed. The installation ceremony took place on Sunday last with great solemnity; the "upper ten" mustered strong on the occasion. The new Bishop made Charity the text of his first sermon. It is whispered, says the Calcutta correspondent of the *Pioneer*, that Dr. Johnson has come to India as an apostle of toleration, desirous rather to bind than to widen the petty differences which characterise the Christian creeds in this country. His Lordship, we are told, possesses a fine voice with a remarkably clear enunciation, which reached the limits of the Cathedral.

FRIDAY, 16TH FEBRUARY.

THE POLICY OF ECONOMY in dealing with the famine enunciated by the Government of India, is working with a vengeance. The Collector of Salem recently requested the sanction of Government to pay each deputy collector, tahsildar, and deputy tahsildar on relief duty in his district the pay of the grade next higher to that held by them respectively. "The relief works organised in his district," he wrote, have now assumed an extended scale, and require constant travelling on the part of the above officers for efficient supervision." As no special allowances to deputy collectors or deputy tahsildars have been granted in other districts, the Board of Revenue did not think that the Salem officers deserved special consideration. But why should not officers in other districts receive the same consideration? Surely it is not intended to keep relief officers on half rations. That's not the way to ensure honesty in a public officer.

FAMINE ECONOMY is manifesting itself in another way. The Collectors are not allowed a sufficient establishment, and errors are creeping into their accounts. The Board of Revenue, Madras, is down upon the Collectors. Here is their comment on the accounts of an official, who has recently been removed to another district:

> "These figures show that the collector's weekly reports are wrong to the extent of Rs. 1,30,000, and the Board are much distressed to find that these reports, which are intended as a guide and basis of Government action, have been prepared with such gross carelessness. Small errors can hardly be avoided in statements prepared as they necessarily are, but it is very disgraceful to the collector's establishment that returns containing such errors as are now brought to light should be sent out of the office. Some of the taluq returns are wrong to the extent of half a lakh of rupees.

But the Collectors can't be expected to do every thing with their own hands.

IT APPEARS that certain young persons from Kashmir have gone to England to study law. They have lately been inspecting the Woolwich Arsenal. It would be better if they studied at Addiscombe or Cooper's Hill College. English law is not wanted in Kashmir.

IT IS STATED that the Burmese Envoys have been received by the King of Spain in great state and that a treaty of commerce is being arranged between the two countries.

WE CONGRATULATE the *Indian Mirror* on the enlargement of its size. It deserves, and, we hope, will command success.

SINCE THE DISRAELI Government bought the Khedive's share in the Suez Canal Englishmen have found a new field for employment in Egypt. Several distinguished Anglo-Indians have joined the administrative staff of the land of the Pharoas. The last, though not the least, is M. L. Mesurier, Chief Engineer and Agent of the Great Indian Peninsular Railway. The Bombay Government has recorded its sense of the services of the retiring Agent in the following terms:

> "On Mr. LeMesurier's departure, Government desire to express to him their sense of the ability and tact with which he has always administered the affairs of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company in Bombay, and of the cordial understanding he has always preserved with the Government, and with their officers.

Egypt bids fair to become one day an appanage of the British Crown.

THE LONDON CORRESPONDENT of the *Civil and Military Gazette* says, that what is called "dustoori" in the East, is rapidly becoming a recognized institution in merrie England. The polite name for it is "commission;" rough ill-mannered fellows call it black mail. When the hanger-on of a great man introduces the latter to a tradesman, the introduction has to be duly paid for. When some wealthy individual purchases a costly work of art, his satellite insists upon receiving a certain "commission" from the vendor. When the clerk of a Parliamentary agent brings the advertisements of new Bills to a newspaper office, he exacts a heavy percentage of the nominal cost of insertion for himself. The same system obtains largely among solicitors, accountants, land and house agents, architects, and every class,

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in fact, who have the opportunity of fingering money in *in transitu* between buyer and seller. Each and all stick on so much secret commission in addition to their regular charges, thus, of course, defrauding one or other of principals. We commend these facts to Mr. Fidelity Moncrieff.

SATURDAY, 17TH FEBRUARY.

WE HAVE much pleasure in giving a prominent insertion to the following letter which Dr. Shourendromohun Tagore has received from Professor Weber :

To SOURINDRO MOHUN TAGORE.
President, Bengal Music School.
BERLIN, *the 6th January* 1877.

Honored Sir ! I beg to offer you my kindest regards for your splendid present of that highly valuable collection of works on the Hindu art of Music, published by yourself and your friends. Though myself no connoisseur at all, I welcome greatly your endeavors to diffuse and popularize *better* notions on Hindu Music, than those which we held hitherto. From my stand-point as Sanskrit scholar, I value of all these works most highly your *Sangit-sar-Sangraha*, on account of its long quotations from older works as the *Sangit-ratnakur*, the *Sangit-ratnavali*, the *Darpun* and others. Next in value I reckon your *Yantra-kosha*, in which you display a really astonishing knowledge of European Music, too, as well as of European literature and languages in general. Your compilation of *Hindu Music from Various Authors* is also a very useful and welcome one, and does good credit to your acquaintance with all what has been written already on this subject by Europeans. But allow me to draw your attention with respect to this to a fact, of which you seem not to be aware, and for which I may refer you at present, for instance, to my 'Lectures on Indian Literature" (1876 P. 297.) The Hindu scale, *sa, re, ga, ma, pa. dha, ni*, has been borrowed also by the Persians, where we find it (see the Dictionaries of Richardson and Johnson. under Daremefasal). In the form *da, re, me, fa, so, la. ci*, and from the Persians it came to the Occident and was introduced by Guido of Arezzo in Europe in the form *do, re. mi, fa. sol, la* I have, moreover, hazarded the conjecture (Lecture P. 367) that even the Gamma of Guido (French, *Gamme*, English *Gamut*) goes back on the Sanskrit *Grama*, (*Prakit, Gama*) and is thus a direct testimony of the Indian origin of our European scale of 7 notes.

There has been of old a constant interchange between India and Europe : many notions and ideas have come to your country from the Occident, but, on other hand, too many of them went in the opposite direction, and as far as we can see at present Europe is really indebted to India in *this* instance.

Allow me, dear Sir, to send you, in acknowledgment of your kind present, which I cannot answer in any adequate way, at least my photograph, enclosed within.

With best wishes for the best prospering of your meritorious efforts and with kindest regards—I am,—Dear Sir,—Respectfully yours.

(Sd.) PROFESSOR DR. A. WEBER.

Professor Weber traces a consanguinity between Indian and European music, which is highly valuable.

THE LONDON DAILY NEWS has the following about the changes in the personnel of the Bengal Government :

"It is a fortunate circumstance that Mr. Eden is now the ruler of a province in which many years ago he rendered conspicuous service to the cause of humanity by his zealous and successful protection of the ryots in the indigo districts. Bombay may also be congratulated upon the Governor it has secured in the person of Sir R. Temple, whose recent experience of famine in Bengal will be of the greatest value in dealing with a similar calamity in the Presidency to which he has now been transferred. We feel sure that it will be generally acknowledged that few men have done more than Sir R. Temple and Mr. Eden to maintain the high character which the Indian Civil Service deservedly enjoys."

THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR of Bengal has ruled that no Mofussil municipalities shall vote a reward to any servant employed by them except with the previous sanction of the Commissioner or the Government.

WE ARE exceedingly sorry to learn that Baboo Khettermohun Mookerjee, who had just been posted to Barisal as Munsiff, has fallen a victim to the epidemic of cholera there almost immediately after his arrival. And yet it is said that the natives shun the post of danger.

WE TAKE from the morning papers the following telegrams of the week :

St. Petersburg, 10th February.—The Russian press considers it would be needless for Russia to make war against Turkey, whose fall will be quicker through internal anarchy than from any foreign attack.

London 12th February.—Liberal organs commenting upon blue book on Eastern Question approve attitude of Government during Conference but attack it for now stopping short of policy of coercion whereby it could prevent insolated action of Russia. *Times* in article on Eastern Question say that country will go with Lord Derby in his policy.

Constantinople, 12th February.—Peace negotiations between Turkey and Servia have been resumed Turks having withdrawn their demand for guarantees. Midhat Pacha has arrived at Brindisi and in reply to English deputation said he attributed his exile to Russian intrigue.

London, 15th February.—According to accounts from a newspaper correspondent generally the Russian army at Kischen-ff is in splendid condition and numbers 200,000 men and 720 guns and that every thing is ready to cross the Danube. The Khedive has appointed, Gordon Pacha Governor of Soudan.

Constantinople, 15th February.—The Porte having refused to negotiate with Prince Nikita at Vienna has proposed Cottaro which place Porte also declined and now proposes Herzegovina or Scutari.

London, 16th February.—In the House of Commons Mr. Bourke replying to Mr. Anstruther said that the Sulian of Zanzibar had fulfilled his engagements entered into by treaty for the suppression of the slave trade.

THERE WERE 276 deaths in Calcutta during the week ending the 10th instant, showing a slight improvement upon the preceding week. There were 60 cases of cholera, 43 of diarrhœa and dysentry, 72 of fever, 15 of pthisis, 15 of tetanus, and 7 of asthma and the rest of other diseases.

A CORRESPONDENT from Bamuneah in the Burdwan district writes to say that the outturn of the rice harvest in the district and its surrounding places this year has been so plentiful and so much in excess of the most sanguine calculations that the like of it was not witnessed for at least the last 25 years, but owing to the drain for the famine-stricken presidencies the price ruling in the market is very high. The producers have as a matter of course greatly benefitted. He further writes that the honor of a salute to His Highness the Maharaja of Burdwan, which was received on the eve of the marriage of His Highness's son, so much pleased him that with one stroke of his pen His Highness raised the expenditure for the occasion from 3 lacs to 5 lacs.

A CORRESPONDENT, who himself is a Mahomedan gentleman, thus speaks of the virtues of Mohunt Naryan Das of Pooree :

"Though a devotee who has renounced the pleasures and occupations of the world, the Mohunt is excelled by few in practical usefulness. He has ample income, the whole of which he applies to the service of his fellow-men. His door is always open to the needy. He feeds and clothes the poor and the destitute and affords to them pecuniary aid besides. He has a tole or Sanskrit school attached to his moth or sanctuary where about 20 orphans are lodged, and educated ; they receive gratuitous food and clothing. Though living the life of a Hindoo saint, his Sanskrit studies have not prevent his cherishing liberal ideas. He takes in most of the Bengali and Orya news-papers and devotes some hours every day to religious, and literary conversations and discussions with his visitors of whom crowds assemble every day. He is not unknown to fame. He was noticed at the last Durbar or Proclamation day at Cuttack and was honored with a certificate of Honor."

THE DELHI COLLEGE is abolished. It is a step backwards We are sorry to say that the people of the Punjab have not been sufficiently keen about it. If they had made a representation to the Government of India or the Secretary of State we dare say they would have been heard.

IT IS REPORTED that Sir John Strachey proposes to give wider effect to Lord Mayo's scheme of decentralization of finance. Does not this mean increased local taxation ?

IT GIVES us great pleasure to notice the active competition among Bengali authors to produce useful books on science adapted to our vernacular schools. We noticed the other day Babu Kanylal Dey's book on chemistry, and we have now another book before us on the same subject by Babu Mahendranath Bhuttacharji, M.A. Babu Mahendranath is a master of his subject and has done himself full justice in the work before us.

WE HAVE RECEIVED from the Gupta Press a copy of "Pocket Dictionary with English and Bengali meanings published by Durgachurn Gupta." We have taken a cursory glance at the contents of the book, and while we give credit to the compiler for the labor he has bestowed upon it, we must confess that the different shades of the meaning of a word have not been given in all cases. In some cases the primary meaning has been omitted, and the secondary meaning given.

WE HAVE to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following publications :—1. Report on the Administration of the N. W. Provinces for 1875-76. 2. Report on Sanitary Measures in India in 1874-75 together with miscellaneous information up to June 1876. Vol. VIII (a Parliamentary Blue Book). 3. An Analysis of Sir WM. Hamilton's Lectures on Metaphysics. By the Rev. Robert Jardine, B. D. D. Sc. 4. Accounts relating to the Trade and Navigation of British India for December 1876. 5. A Pocket Dictionary with English and Bengalee meanings. By Doorga Churn Gupto. 6. Eleventh Report of the Charitable Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Calcutta. 7. Sixth Report of St. Vincent Home for 1876. 8. Forty-sixth Annual Report of the Oriental Seminary. 9. A Manual of Chemistry in Bengali by Mahendro Nath Bhuttacharji, M. A. 10. Sararnoba—or the spirit of the Vedas and other religious Hindu Books, Part 1. By Mahendro Nath Ghosal. 11. Friendship-Offering, being a commendatory Poem in honor of Rai Kany Lal Dey Bahadur. By Bholanath Mookerjee.

A HINDU, named Ethens de Tomanzi, says the *Englishman*, has been elected a Municipal Commissioner for Londonderry. Who can this gentleman be ?

THE NOW NOTORIOUS editor of the defunct *European*, Mr. Browne, has been sentenced by the High Court to one month's simple imprisonment for misappropriation of money. The plea was drunkenness. And this was the man, who sought to guide the "manifest destiny of the Anglo-Saxon" in India by his patriotic labors !

WE HAVE RECEIVED an anonymous letter complaining of some remarks we made on the translation of Dr. Watt's unpublished work on Botany. When the writer admits that there are "blemishes" in the translation, that is enough for our purpose.

NOTICE.

INDIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE CULTIVATION OF SCIENCE.

Lecture by the Very Rev. Father Lafont, S. J., on *Thursday* the *22nd February* next, at 7½ P. M. *Subject :* Transmission, Velocity, and Intensity of Light.

Donors and monthly subscribers admitted free.

Admission Fee for non-subscribers—*Annas* 8

Tickets to be had of the clerk at the office of the Association between 10½ A. M. and 4½ P. M. (Sundays excepted), and on the day of Lecture up to the time of Lecture

MAHENDRA LAL SIRCAR,
17th February 1877. *Honorary Secretary.*

The Hindoo Patriot.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1877.

IMPULSIVE AND SENTIMENTAL LEGISLATION.

IN 1852 Lord Ellenborough in giving his evidence before the Parliamentary Committee on Indian affairs characterized the Indian Legislature as a standing committee of changes. If that sagacious statesman could rise from his grave and see the work of the three Legislative Councils, which now mould the destinies of the millions of India, we do not know how he would have characterized it. These Councils are perpetually changing laws, and tinkering, or in their elegant language, amending to-day what they enacted yesterday. We would not, however, complain, if their pastime did no harm to the country, but unfortunately what is sport to them is death to the people. To all who come under the operation of the laws of our Councils this perpetual grinding of the legislative mill is a source of much inconvenience, annoyance, hardship and loss. In the first place the reversal of old recognized principles of jurisprudence, which regulate the relations of society, and the introduction of innovations, which are the results of the individual thoughts, fancies, or prejudices of a small knot of men, who are for the time being in the ascendant in the legislature, affect most injuriously the vital interests of the people, and fill them with dissatisfaction and discontent. In the second place the administrators of law, and the advocates who assist them and the public, suffer a never-ending annoyance, inasmuch as they must unlearn to-day what they learnt yesterday, and this sort of fluctuating knowledge is not conducive to that equable temper, which is so essential to a sound administration of justice. The people of India are charged with a litigious spirit ; we wish their accusers would remember how much of the litigation prevalent in this country is due to the ever-shifting laws under which they are placed. It is also observable that not a little of the inefficient administration of the law is due to the unstable and confusing character of our legislation. Speaking of English legislation Mr. Janson, Vice-President of the Incorporated Law Society, in a paper on "statistics of legislation" read before the Statistical Society in 1873, says, "the bulk of our statute-book is in part the necessary consequence of the increasing activity of the Legislature ; and the imperfection of our Acts of Parliament is often due to the haste, with which bills are hurried through their later stages, specially towards the end of the sessions ; but there can be no doubt that much might be done to improve the system on which they are framed." These remarks apply with much greater force to Indian legislation. It is true that here we do not experience the antagonistic influences of Parliamentary parties on legislation ; here the Executive Government is supreme, and legislative measures are for the most part hatch-

ed in the executive department and developed into being in the legislative chamber; but every successive Law Member is ambitious of having his name linked with some great changes in law, and so the process of law-making proceeds apace. Here there is no stress of Parliamentary session, but the term of office being limited the Law-Member is naturally desirous to complete his projects before he leaves the country. And as the European members, whether official or non-official, have no abiding interest in the country; as neither they nor their children nor children's children are destined to reap the fruits of the laws which they make, they have no personal interests at stake and therefore feel no compunctions in giving a free scope to their experimental philosophy. As Rajá Sheoraj once said to Sir Henry Maine it were to be wished that the Indian legislators could be made to stay in the country, hold land in it, and live under the operation of their laws after the termination of their service, for then they would realize the effects of their legislation. We read the other day in the *Times* a letter from Carolina in which the writer said that the white men in that State wished that Indian legislators had held lands so that they might feel a direct interest in their legislative labors, and the same wish is not unfrequently expressed by the people of this country in respect of the measures of its English legislators. Self-interest is the safest guide in legislation. When a man's pocket, right, interest or property is touched, he is sure to think half a dozen times over before he gives his sanction to impulsive and sentimental legislation.

These remarks have been suggested by the course which the legislature is following in respect of the amendment of the Civil Procedure Code. The amendment had been contemplated for the last twelve years, but the amended Bill did not appear until about two years ago. The Select Committee have reported upon it no less than four times, and every time they reported upon it, they introduced material alterations in it. The last report was made in September last, and the most objectionable alterations have been made in the Amended Bill no. 4. These alterations indicate a spirit of dealing with private rights, for which we were ill-prepared from a Committee presided over by one so sober, moderate and thoughtful as Sir Arthur Hobhouse. Perhaps he has been carried away by the tide of "local experience," which runs high in the Select Committee. One of these "local experience" men has lately ship-wrecked the reputation of the Indian legislature by his perverseness in connection with the Bombay Revenue Jurisdiction Bill. We appeal to Sir Arthur Hobhouse to divest himself for a moment of all local influences, and to look at the Bill no. 4 with the clear and uncontaminated vision of an English Jurist. Is it not calculated to bring the monetary transactions in the country to a dead-lock, to destroy private credit, which is the soul of commerce, to render the employment of capital on loans a criminal offence as it were, to hold out a premium to the dishonest and to teach the turbulent to be recusant? In the first place the Bill provides that the Court may award interest at any rate for money advanced from the institution of a suit, and the Court if it likes may award one per cent; in the second place that it shall not award interest exceeding six per cent per annum from date of decree, and it may also in that case if it pleases order one per cent; in the third place that the Court may order payment by instalments with or without interest, and then it may extend payment over twenty years. Father it may place an attached estate under the management of the Collector, who is authorized to liquidate the debt in twenty years, and even after the expiration of that period the whole debt may not be paid off. Again for reasons of State the Government may exempt lands in particular tracts of the country from attachment and sale. Further, the salaries of public officers, the wages of labor, and houses of agriculturists are exempted from attachment for debt. Now, what is all this but confiscation of private rights in disguise? We confess we cannot trace the secret springs of this abnormal sympathy of the Select Committee with debtors, who may not choose to pay their just dues. Why should these men be encouraged in their career of extravagance and deception we cannot for the life of us understand? Is the man, who gives accommodation to another in distress or difficulty, a thief or malefactor? Those who enter into bonds or mortgages for repayment of money received do so with their eyes open, and why should the legislature go out of its way and in effect tell them that they need not be in a hurry to pay, for it will spread the shield of its protection over them? Where there has been fraud on the part of the creditor, the law is sufficiently strong to punish him, but a maudlin sympathy for the debtor should not certainly deprive the creditor of his just dues and rights. The Legislature seeks to regulate the value of money, in other words the rate of interest, through the action of the courts, and none knows better than Sir Arthur Hobhouse that this course is opposed to all sound principles of economy. It may as well revive the usury laws, which were abolished in 1855. It would be we submited more straightforward, if the legislature were to declare openly and broadly that no interest upon advance of money shall be charged, or that the rate shall not exceed a certain percentage, or that money shall not be advanced on loans, than that honest capitalists shall be left to the mercy of the court and the debtor. But the legislature is mistaken that this partiality to the debtor will really benefit him. He who has the purse in his hands will know how to employ it. As the world goes there are men who are sure to be in need of money, and who must pledge their property in order to raise it, and as capitalists with these restrictions of law before them will naturally be reluctant to lend money, they will be obliged to sell their property outright. Where would then be the benefit of this sentimental legislation? Its direct result will be a paralysis of trade and commerce. Then again we are not a little surprised to observe that just when the Queen has been proclaimed the Empress of India the Legislature is declaring to the world that the Munsif whom the Government appoints is not fit to try suits against Government. If the Munsif is good enough for private parties, we cannot understand why he should be considered otherwise when the Government is concerned? If he is not good enough for Government, he cannot be good for the people, and then he ought to be abolished altogether. But the High Court and the Government have of late years been ringing with the praises of the Munsif, need we say with perfect justice, and is it not grossly inconsistent that at this time of day the Legislature should mark its distrust in him by ousing him from the jurisdiction, which he now exercises in suits against the Government? Further, the Munsif is deprived of the power of executing the decrees passed by himself. The object it is said is that as the sale of property in the far interior does not fetch proper price, the sale at the sudder station might be more advantageous to the debtor. But it is apparently forgotten that the Munsif's jurisdiction extends over suits of small value, and property of small value is therefore liable to sale under his decrees. As the bidders at the sudder stations are not likely to go to the expense and trouble of inspecting small parcels of land or houses, ten to one they will fetch still less price there. There may be some competition at the Munsif's Chowki, but perhaps none at the sudder station. Far better would it be to give the debtor the option of either having his property sold at the Munsif's Chowki or the sudder station, and he is certainly the best judge of the prospect of the sale. Again, the Bill partially recognizes the law of pre-emption, but it is so worded that it will do more harm than good to the judgment-debtor. It will shut out open competition and give an undue advantage to the sharers. We are not opposed to pre-emption, but the right ought to be restricted with some safe-guards consistently with the ends of justice. There are other provisions of the Bill, which are equally open to serious objection.

The Bill consists of 48 chapters and 654 sections. Each section is important and requires the most careful attention and analysis for a thorough understanding of all its bearings. The Select Committee have been hard at work, but how can they expect that the general public can master it within a few weeks, when they have taken months, we may say years, to mature it? We believe the local Governments and the High Courts are to a man opposed to the innovations we have noticed above. Some of them we believe have represented that they have not had sufficient time to digest the Bill, and is there any necessity for passing it in a hurry? Surely it cannot be pretended that the administration of justice is at a stand-still for want of the amended Bill. We are of opinion that too much attention and care cannot be bestowed upon this Bill. This is we submit a most inopportune time for passing it. A terrible famine is raging in the Presidencies of Bombay and Madras; the local Governments are engrossed with the task of devising measures for the salvation of human life; they cannot now make time to study and criticize this voluminous production, and it is therefore highly necessary that the Bill should not be passed in haste. What does it matter that it has been so long before the Council? The amended Bill No. 4 is so unlike the first draft that practically it is a new bill, and we doubt whether sufficient publicity has been given to it in all the provincial languages for general information. The local officers in the Southern and Western Presidencies being occupied with the famine cannot we surmise have had time to digest the Bill, and it would be most unfortunate if it should be passed into law without taking the best informed opinion in the country upon it. The only reason suggested for this precipitate haste is that Sir Arthur Hobhouse is about to go home. But is that a valid reason for hurrying on a Bill of such gigantic character? We cannot believe that Sir Arthur has any sentiment about it, that he has any wish to risk the cause of sound legislation for the sake of personal gratification. If the matter rests with him only, we feel confident that he will not allow "ego" to supercede the paramount consideration of the interests of the millions.

THE INDIAN FINANCE.

MR. FAWCETT again moved the appointment of a Committee of Enquiry into Indian Finance, and was defeated by a majority of fifty. No less than 128 votes were recorded in favour of his motion, but the Government, which commands a standing majority, carried the day. We cannot too deeply regret the result. The Indian Finance Committee of 1871 was due to the advocacy of Mr. Fawcett. It was a Royal Commission on Indian Finance, which the sightless champion of India had advocated, but Mr. Gladstone made a compromise, and gave him a Select Committee. For three years the Committee worked, and collected a mass of valuable information. Nothing could be more searching than the questions of Mr. Fawcett, and we well remember the palpitation of heart which many a witness felt in approaching the board of examination. Mr. Ayrton, who was Chairman of the Committee, did his work well and thoroughly, and if the Committee had been permitted to conclude their labors, their report would have doubtless led to important changes in the financial administration of India. But there was a change in the Ministry, and afterwards a dissolution of Parliament, and the Select Committee on Indian Finance were necessarily dissolved. In the meantime Lord Northbrook had been appointed Viceroy and Governor General of India. A financier by hereditary instinct and occupation he commanded the confidence of the public both in England and India, and Mr. Fawcett, who was a friend of his Lordship, and who had faith in his financial knowledge and ability, did not think it necessary to agitate again about Indian Finance. The measures which Lord Northbrook took to establish the finances of India on a safe and sound footing had also a re-assuring effect. His first step was an enquiry into the working of the Income tax and the pressure of local taxation. He also directed his attention to the enforcement of economy. The immediate results of his financial operations were considerable retrenchment, the abolition of the Income tax, the abandonment of some of the local taxes, and the displacement of some fetters on internal commerce. He signalized the close of his reign by the inauguration of a sound and enlightened commercial policy. All these measures calmed the feel-

ings of the public, which had been roused against Lord Mayo's Government. The murmurs of discontent gradually passed away, and the Indian Reformers in England were appeased. But the most serious drawback in the administration of Indian finance remained unremoved. The Public Works Department, though kept firmly in hand by Lord Northbrook, still continued a Department of Waste. Lord Salisbury seemed to be fully alive to this cardinal defect in the Indian administrative system, and believing, wrongly, we think, that the Governor General, devoid of professional knowledge, was unequal to the task of properly regulating public works' expenditure, proposed the appointment of a Minister of Works in the Indian Cabinet. Lord Northbrook was not personally in favour of this proposal; his Lordship we believe was of opinion that the Public Works Member instead of proving a source of strength to the head of the Government might prove a source of embarassment; without being confronted by a responsible Minister of Works the Finance Minister from the days of Mr. Laing to those of Sir William Muir had complained of the tyranny of the Public Works Department; but the Secretary of State thought otherwise, and carried his measure with the sanction of Parliament. Three years have passed away since this appointment, but what has been the result? There has been no reform in the Public Works Department. It is true that latterly there have been some reductions made, but what is the practical significance of these reductions? Only the poor native overseer, supervisor, and clerk have been sacrificed, but the European heads are unaffected. Certain districts have been abolished, but the services of the executive engineers have not been dispensed with. They have been drafted to head-quarters, and are practically doing nothing but drawing their pay. On the other hand the Cooper's Hill College is annually sending forth recruits, for whom there is scarcely any place. The object of the Duke of Argyll in founding the Cooper's Hill College was certainly to promote efficiency in the administration of the Public Works Department. It was believed that much of the waste in the department was due to ignorance and incapacity in the men, who designed and supervised the works. There were some bad cases in the days of Lord Mayo, and the Duke of Argyll was desirous to put an end to such scandals; His Grace wanted to send out men with special training, but he did not evidently calculate the cost or the probable demand for men in India. He forgot that the Public Works Department was not under but over-manned, that there were too many men, who under a false system of decentralization were employed to do work, which might have been efficiently and satisfactorily performed by fewer hands, that though proper knowledge was certainly wanting in many of these men, the object might have been attained by prescribing a preliminary examination before appointment without having recourse to the expensive parapharnalia of a special College. A public examination would have enabled the Government to regulate admissions according to actual requirement, but the College is a perpetual burden upon it. It must admit students so long as it maintains the staff of professors, for the two follow each other like cause and effect, and it must provide employment for the successful students. The result is doubly mischievous; it makes a constant drain upon the Indian exchequer; whether there be demand or no, the supply is there and it must be taken; when the men come they must have something to do, and to give them something to do means additional expenditure of money. As a matter of course new works must be put in hand to keep them employed, and all visions of economy must necessarily vanish into thin air. Again, the more the department is overstocked with these men, there will be less chance of promotion for them, and staguation breeds dissatisfaction. Already we see some signs of it. On the other hand the Cooper's Hill College threatens to be a perpetual bar to the prospects of native engineers who do their work well enough, who are obedient and economical, and less harmful because less bold in demanding concessions, but they must give way to Englishmen, who come out under a covenant. Thus from whichever point of view we look at the Cooper's Hill College, we find that it has been a grievous mistake. We had opposed it when the project was first put forth, but when the Secretary of State took an idea into his head, nothing could of course resist him. If the Finance Committee of Mr. Fawcett had been appointed, the working of the Public Works Department under the combined influences of the Duke of Argyll's Cooper's Hill College and the Marquis of Salisbury's Minister of Public Works would have formed a most important subject of enquiry. But the opportunity for such an enquiry we submit has not passed away. It is given to any member of Parliament to raise a debate upon it. The facts which we have briefly alluded to are as patent as the noon-day sun, and we do hope that Mr. Fawcett will move in the matter. We observe that Mr. Smollett brought forward a notice to "stop public works involving the distinction of ordinary and extraordinary expenses" and that Lord George Hamilton opposed it. Ultimately the motion was negatived. We are not satisfied that the distinction can be satisfactorily abolished. What is wanted in our humble opinion is a strict scrutiny of schemes of a reproductive character before execution. This can be done either by a Council of Delegates in India or by the House of Commons. We have often urged the necessity of a Financial Council in India. As matters now stand the Indian public have no voice in the management of the finances. They know just so much of it as the Government of India is pleased to give out and nothing more, and that much we need hardly say is precious little. It is true that we have a Legislative Council, which has the right of discussing measures of taxation, but it is a packed council, and the non-official members have no appreciable voice in it. Lord Northbrook ruled that the Budget shall not be submitted to the Council, until it was accompanied with a bill, and we must confess that in the present constitution of the Council a discussion upon the Budget is altogether barren. It leads to no practical result. If a vote in the Council could affect the Budget entries just as a vote in the Municipal Council does, it would be something, but we are afraid our Government is not prepared to surrender its despotic power. It knows well that the power of the purse is the most important power, which a people can aspire to, and they are not likely to concede that power in a hurry. The next best course is that no scheme of public works extraordinary should be allowed to be carried out without the sanction of Parliament. In the broad day-light of Parliamentary discussion the dark recesses of the Public Works Budget cannot remain unpenetrated. Physically sightless though Mr. Fawcett be, his intellectual and moral vision is far more keen than the sharpest eyes of others, and we have no doubt that led by him his brother M. Ps. who take an interest in India, will closely scrutinize the schemes before sanction. If Mr. Fawcett has lost his motion for a Committee on Indian Finance, may we venture to express a hope that he will bring the whole question of public works' expenditure under review of Parliament, with special reference to the points we have noted above?

THE FAMINE.

THE situation in the distressed tracts of the Southern and Western Presidencies is becoming more and more alarming. The Government of India in their despatch to the Secretary of State dated the 9th instant, thus describes it: "The situation is, indeed, very grave. The extent of the distressed area in length is very great, beginning, as it does, from near the south bank of the Taptee river in Khandesh, and stretching down south, uninterruptedly, almost to Cape Comorin; and in one part its breadth is considerable extending from the eastern watershed of the Western Ghaut mountains to the East Coast. Including Bombay, the Nizam's dominions, Mysore and Madras, the population affected can hardly be less than thirty millions, possibly a good deal more. The calamity is aggravated by the prevalence of cholera in many of the distressed districts." Happily there is no difficulty in supplying them with grain. Private enterprise is active, and the abundant supplies which are pouring in have placed food within the reach of all, who want it. The Railways have proved a great blessing at this crisis. As the Government of India observes, "if it were not for the railways, which now extend from the base of the Himalayas to the extreme south of the peninsula, and the great improvement which has taken place in the communications generally, the difficulty of transporting food in sufficient quantities over this vast area would have practically rendered it beyond the power of Government, however great their efforts and unrestricted their expenditure, to prevent a very heavy mortality in some, at all events, of the drought-stricken districts. As it is, the railways are carrying the surplus produce of the Punjab, of the North-Western and Central Provinces, and of Bengal, where the harvests have been excellent, to the drought-stricken plains of Sholapore, Bellary and Kurrnool; and throughout the distressed districts, owing to the activity of private trade the markets, as a general rule, are well supplied." There is therefore no lack of food, but there is a lack of the wherewithal to buy food. The Government of India had at first enunciated a faint-hearted policy for the administration of relief. In the letter of instructions to Sir Richard Temple the Government repudiated the "task of preventing all suffering, and of giving general relief to the poorer classes of the community." It declared that "even for an object of such paramount importance as the preservation of life, it is obvious that there are limits which are imposed upon us by the facts with which we have to deal." "The task of saving life, irrespective of the cost, is one which it is beyond our power to undertake." In other words the money cost was of greater importance to Government than the cost of human life. This was the key-note to the policy of the Government of India, and how widely opposed was it to the noble policy of Lord Northbrook? It is true that the reproaches of the press have since opened both the head and heart of the Government, but it is obvious that Sir Richard Temple, the Government of Bombay and the Government of Madras have shaped their courses greatly according to the tenour of the first instructions. Sir Richard Temple has recommended a bare subsistence wage, and the Governments of Bombay and Madras have as a matter of course followed the advice of Sir Richard. Now, what is the result? The Sholapore Correspondent of the *Times of India* says that thousands of people are wandering about the country without work, without food. Several deaths are reported, but the Government has not yet relaxed its rigorous policy. As the proverb has it, the beggar has no choice. Pinched by hunger the poor sufferers must take what they can get. But the question is whether they will be able to give full tale of work on bare subsistence, and whether it is humane to exact it under such condition. It is also a question for our benign Government to consider whether persons living on half rations and doing full work will be able to resist attacks of disease. Cholera, it is said, has broken out in the distressed tracts, and it is worthy of consideration whether bare subsistence may not render the sufferers more susceptible of the disease and still more incapable of resisting its attacks when it sets in. If what we hear be true, the heavy mortality from cholera is largely due to the exhausted condition of the patients. This is equally true of Bombay and Madras. A local paper gives the following harrowing picture of Madras:

"The *Madras Mail* states that the villagers are dying rapidly in the relief houses at the Monegar Choltry, and that after death the corpses are 'simply wrapped in a date mat, with the head and feet porturding,' and carried off through the public streets to the place of cremation. The city might fancy itself plague-stricken, and no doubt panic augments the severity of the small-pox and cholera now prevalent. In Black Town parents may be seen carrying there dead children in their arms to the nearest burial grounds, which in many cases are already so full that new graves cannot be dug without disturbing bodies recently buried."

And who is responsible for this sacrifice of human life? We beseech Lord Lytton to ponder over this question.

Then comes the question of relief works. The Government of India had refused the construction of works in Bombay, which would be a charge on the imperial revenue. The Bombay Government has put the case strongly before the

Government of India as to the necessity of executing these works. The Government of India laid down the condition that no works shall be undertaken unless, in each case, the local Government was satisfied by evidence, which it considered sufficient, that delay in commencing work would involve serious danger to the lives of the people. On this point, the Bombay Government remarks, "all that can be said is that the autumn and spring crops over a large area in this Presidency have almost, if not entirely, failed, while in other parts they have been extremely scanty; that the prices of food grains have consequently risen to an abnormal height; that the mass of the people are very poor; and that those who usually depend on the product of their own small holdings or on agricultural, or other labour, for subsistence, are now deprived of their means of livelihood, and would probably fall into very great straits, and starve, if aid were not given to them in some shape." The Government of Bombay gives a good reproof to the Government of India regarding economy. It says: "His Excellency the Governor in Council feels strongly that the obligation which rests on him of properly and economically administering the public funds, is not less in degree, though it may be less in extent, than the obligation which rests on the Government of India itself; that in fact, in common with all other public officers administering the resources of the State, it is his duty to enforce such careful and prudent economy as may be compatible with good and efficient Government. It is, therefore, no small cause of satisfaction to His Excellency to find that not only this principle, but also all the others which he has endeavoured to enforce are embodied in their letter of instructions to Sir Richard Temple. There is however, undoubtedly one exception of the utmost importance. This Government has been acting on the assumption that no person was to be allowed to die of starvation if the Government could prevent it But the letter to Sir Richard Temple says, "even for an object of such paramount importance as the preservation of life, it is obvious that there are limits which are imposed upon us by the facts with which we have to deal." The Government of India cannot fail to appreciate the extent to which this limitation, however sound in itself, must increase the responsibility of the Local Government in controlling relief operations." This remonstrance has had effect. The Government of India now says that "His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General in Council leaves the matter to the Government of Bombay, with complete confidence not only that it will be decided rightly, but that a wise economy, consistent with the duty of giving complete protection to the lives of the people, will be practised."

The third point is the remission of revenue. Sir Richard Temple is opposed to remission as a rule. He writes: "In regard to the theory that remissions and not suspension of land-revenue are the custom of the Madras revenue system, I may note here that I learn to-day in Madras that the instructions to assessing officers direct that 20 per cent. be deducted from the full revenue rate in making assessments, so as to leave the ryots a margin for bad seasons; and it is stated in those instructions that remissions will not hereafter be granted on dry crop land. I cannot learn that any distinct provision by law, or any engagement with the ryot exists, whereby Government would be bound to grant remissions, instead of suspensions, of the land-revenue which the ryots may this year be unable to pay." But the question is not one of law but of fact. Are the people, who have no means to keep the body and soul together, able to meet the Government demand? This is the sole question at issue, and Sir Richard Temple has not apparently considered it. Of course in Bengal he had pursued a different policy, but in Bengal there was the Permanent Settlement. The zemindars paid the revenue, but they remitted the rents of their ryots. The Durbhanga estate for instance has been a heavy loser in this way. But there are no buffers between the Government and the ryot in the Presidencies of Madras and Bombay, and it is therefore necessary that the Government should remit the revenue. The Government of India remarks: "Sir Richard Temple had suggested that suspensions only should be allowed pending further consideration, and that remissions should be prohibited. Both the Local Governments having objected to the course suggested, we have intimated to them that the matter will be left to their discretion, but that the subordinate authorities should be warned against too free remissions, and authorized to hold balances in suspense in cases in which it appears likely that the landholders will, without undue pressure, be able to pay the revenue in arrear during the next season." This is a serious question. The ryots in the Presidencies of Bombay and Madras are burdened with a heavy assessment; they can barely make the two ends meet; they are pauperized by a single famine, and can they be expected to set up again in life with the arrears of revenue for the famine year hanging upon them, and with the demands for the coming year and their domestic requirements staring them in the face? It would be sheer cruelty, if the Government should enforce Shylock's bond, and cut off the flesh regardless of the blood.

It is gratifying to observe that the Nizam's Government has successfully managed the famine in his territories. We read that out of the seventeen districts which compose the dominion of His Highness the Nizam there has been bad failure of harvests in parts of six only, namely in East Raichore, in part of West Raichore (known as Lingasoor), in the southern parts of Nalgonda abutting on the Kurnool district, in part of Sholapore, in part of Nuldroog near the Sholapore district, and in a small tract south of Pyton near the British district of Ahmednagar. The failure was most utter in the Alpur sub-division of East Raichore; there no crop whatever was saved this season. In the rest of the distressed tracts it is estimated that a yield of from 2 annas to 3 annas (one-sixth of an ordinary crop) has been secured. In tracts adjoining the distressed districts the harvests have not been so good as usual; but over the rest of the country the harvests have been fair, while in the districts north of Hyderabad there have been decidedly good crops. Sir Richard Temple writes:

"There have been no known cases of starvation or extreme distress. But some few hundred persons from the Alpur taluk in the extreme south went over to the Kurnool relief works. On representation being made relief works were begun on the Nazam's side of the border in East Raichore and also in very few other places; and there are now (12th January) about 5,000 persons on the relief works. The condition of the labourers is as yet by no means depressed. A gang of about 1,500 labourers on a road of Alpur taluk in the eastern extremity of the Raichore Doab was inspected as Sir Richard passed along;—men, women and children were all in good physical condition. The Engineer in charge, Mr. Brandt, said that the people were much in want of work, but that he had not seen any cases of great distress. Some hundreds of people had come over to his work from Kurnool, because the authorities there had reduced their wage rate; he intended at once to reduce his rates also. Hitherto he had paid 3 annas a day to adult male labourers."

The memorandum thus concludes: "So far as Sir Richard Temple was able to judge, the arrangements made to meet distress and the diagnosis of the coming trouble, were creditable to the prudence and foresight of His Highness the Nizam's Government. The distress in the Nizamat country will be more limited and less serious than was at first feared, and will not, it may be hoped, aggravate the pressure and the trouble in the adjoining British district." Sir Richard Temple does not say whether the Nizam's Government has *suspended* or *remitted* the revenue. In Mysore the aspect of affairs is bad, but the local Government seems to be well-prepared to meet it. Any expenditure incurred in Mysore will not of course be a charge upon the imperial exchequer.

THE FAMINE AND THE FUTURE OF THE LAND.

THE outbreak of the Famine in the Presidencies of Madras and Bombay, following so soon the grain riots in the Deccan, fills the public mind with grave anxiety as to the future of the land. How is the population to subsist if famines become periodical? Judging by the past we are led to hope that the recurrence of famines is not likely to be so frequent as the visitations of late years may well lead one to apprehend. The direst famine, which had visited Bengal within the last hundred years or so, of which we have authentic records, was that which occurred in the latter half of the last century. It was the Great Famine of 1769-70. Then came the Famine of 1836-37 and 1860-61 in the North Western Provinces, of 1865-66 in Orissa, and of 1869-70 in the North Western Provinces and the Punjab, of 1873-74 in Bengal and Behar, and of the present year in Bombay and Madras. There were, however, two partial famines in the Madras Presidency before. In 1832, the rains failed below the Eastern Ghats, which caused great distress in the coast districts, from Madras northwards, in that and the following year. The suffering had continued till 1834. The most severe suffering was in the Guntoor district, 200,000 of the inhabitants of which are stated to have perished from hunger and disease. Large bodies of the starving poor found their way into Madras; but there, as in Calcutta 1866, measures were taken to get them back into their districts. Local works were provided for their employment, and bounties were paid on the importation of grain. In 1852-53 again there was great failure of rain in the country above the Ghats, the Bellary district being chiefly affected. Immense numbers of the people were supported by public works. In the single district of Bellary as many as 100,000 persons were at one time employed, and for five months the number seem to average about 80,000 persons, employed at a total cost of between 12 and 13 lakhs of rupees. Mr. Maltby, a member of the Board of Revenue, was deputed as Special Commissioner to the distressed tracts. The result of the measures adopted in saving the people is stated in his report to have been successful; he wrote that, with the exception of some severe outbreaks of cholera, no great loss of life occurred. Thus in the course of one hundred and six years there were eight great famines or one famine in thirteen years on an average. The intervals have been much shorter of late, and possibly the destruction of trees, which has been going on during the last few years, greatly affected the rainfall, the failure of which led to drought, and the drought to scarcity of food. But if famines have of late years become more frequent, the improvement of communications has facilitated the transport of food so much so that neither in 1873-74 nor this year has there been an absolute dearth of supplies. The surplus produce of other districts is abundant for the drought-stricken districts. The question is now one of means. Food the people can get, but where are they to have means from for the purchase of food, and what is it that presses down their means? We do not hesitate to say that it is the heavy land assessment, which prevents the agricultural population from reaping the fruits of their labor, and of making provision against unforeseen calamities. As the *Times of India* says, ere the next sowing season commences in the Deccan, the peasantry will have found themselves in worse plight than ever. Of those who have migrated to the neighbouring or distant territory, a great number must find themselves on return home wholly powerless to commence even on a moderate scale the ordinary agricultural operations for the next year's crops. Their implements will have been probably lost or scattered, their cattle either sold off or dead from hunger or thirst. In many cases this cattle difficulty will be a serious one. Where this is got over, the needful quantity of seed grain may not be forthcoming, to say nothing of the food the ryot must find for himself and family during the interval between the sowing and harvest seasons. All these *contretemps* must more or less hamper the ryots' agricultural operations, and Government must find in the drought-stricken districts either a smaller area of ground taken up for cultivation, or smaller production resulting from the inadequacy of means at the ryot's command. And as the result of all this, Government must be prepared for heavy sacrifices of revenue in addition to the current year's losses already incurred. The question, however, does not end here. The facts revealed in the recently published report of the commissioners on the late agrarian risings in Poona and Ahmednuggur go far to show that Government is not justified in holding fast any longer by the land policy which, under the guidance of the Survey Department, has been followed for the last ten years, and that unless it is prepared to make its demands more compatible with the depressed condition of the peasantry, irretrievable ruin would be sure to befall those districts. The same remarks apply to Madras. There the ryotwarry settlement has reduced the profits of agricultural labor to almost subsistence allow-

ance and if the Government does not remit the revenue, the prospect is very gloomy for the people. And how long can the Government afford to lose revenue and also lay out money for the support of famished populations? The State is sure to be driven to insolvency, if our rulers do not take warning betimes. One calamity comes after another; there is a temporary flutter, but as soon as the danger passes away, the Government sinks into a chronic apathy. It hardly takes care of the morrow. But this sort of *laissuz venir* policy will not do. It must meet the problem boldly in the face. To our mind the extension of the permanent settlement of the land revenue seems to be the only solution of the problem. It will relieve the springs of industry, give the landholders a direct interest in the soil, enable the agricultural laborers to enjoy the fruits of their labor, and when a calamity will occur they will be able to live upon the savings of past years, while it will secure the revenue from fluctuations owing to drought and flood. We have not space to quote here the excellent observations of Col. Bairt Smith, Famine Commissioner in Northern India, in 1860-61, on this subject, but it is worthy of remark that even the Orissa Famine Commission of 186 , presided over by such a radical in land politics of India as Sir George Campbell recommended that measure. The Commission wrote:

"It appears to us that the question is not only whether a permanent settlement is good in the abstract, but may also be whether it is so good a thing, that it is desirable to obtain it by substituting o her taxes for the progressive land revenue which is surrounded. This is a political question with which this Commission may be hardly expected to deal, but the President proposes to submit a note on the subject.

It follows, a mo t neces-a i y, f om h f c w ich we have before stated, that perman nt settlement, w ich should fix the payments of only one of seve al parties interested in the soil, and be the one most remote from all practical concern in its improvement, while the actual possessor of the "*dominium utile*" should remain, as much as ever, subject to uncertainty and extortion, would not give the full advantages of the system A permanent settlement, to be effectua , must fix or regulate for ever the rights and payment of all parti s having rights in the soil, be they who they may, not of one only. Such a settlement would certainly have immense advantages, and would lead to great agr cultural improvements and if made on a system of commuted corn rents, calculated on the average prices of a series of years, would, in our opinion, be that which would most combine permanency of tenure with a prospective increase of land revenue to the state in some degree commensurate to its claims and its necessities."

It will be seen from the above that though Sir Geoge Campbell was opposed to the Permanent Settlement so far as it was calculated to favour the zemindar, he was not opposed to the perpetual limitation of the State demand upon the ryots. In the presidencies of Madras and Bombay the ryots are the holders of the land, with whom the Government deals directly, and if the Government makes the assessment perpetual, the objections urged by the Orissa Famine Commission will have no force whatever. But we do not think that periodic adjustment of corn rent according to the value of produce will give the ryots the real benefits of a permanent settlement of the land revenue.

FORTY-FIVE YEARS AGO AND TO-DAY

WHILE our countrymen are justly complaining of the want of sincerity in the Government in making promises for the employment of the children of the soil in the higher offices of the State, for which they are qualified by education, aptitude, and character, and breaking them to the ear, it is interesting to enquire how are the native officers already in the public service generally treated by their official superiors, and how does the Government deal with them when they are harshly or unjustly treated. About forty-five years ago the Board of Revenue in the North Western Provinces wrote as follows: "It scarcely needs to be stated that native officers are frequently dismissed from their situations not for proved delinquency or any tangible matter or substantial charge, but in accordance with the opinions of their immediate superiors taken up against them sometimes hastily." Again: "A large portion of the public servants are under the absolute control of one officer who has the absolute power of dismissal, and men are consequently often dismissed by caprice and also as a punishment." "An officer often too dismisses a man merely as a punishment with the intention frequently carried out of re-appointing him." Further, "the Native servants of Government are treated with a degree of harshness which stands in remarkable contrast to the conduct adopted towards Europeans or officers of mixed parentage." "To such an extent does this severity prevail that all prudent Natives resign when they perceive that their superiors do not regard them with favor. This state of things has the worst effect on our Native officers, it induces them to make hay while the sun shines and to add to the severity now used by pronouncing every man dismissed, incapable of serving Government would only add to the evil." The Junior Member of the Board took this opportunity to put on record his deliberate opinion "that less caprice, less severity, less indignity in the treatment of Native servants of Government is necessary if Government would be well served by them."

Such was the treatment of Native officers forty-five years ago; how are they now treated? Are they now treated with less "caprice, less severity and less indignity" than they were about forty-five yeirs ago? We are constrained to say we cannot answer in the affirmative. It must be admitted that there has been a radical change in the character of the Native agency within the last half century. Men of the old class, who formerly used to fill the subordinate ranks of the service, have nearly passed away; persons of education, probity, and independence of feeling have taken their places. There has been also some improvement in the prospects of the Native officers. They are generally now better paid than before, but pecuniarily they cannot be said to be better off than their fathers. The cost of living has greatly increased so much so that very few of them notwithstanding their increased emoluments can make a saving. The prices of provisions, and expenses of medication, education, and social life have increased on all sides, and the result is that the Native officers even when they are well paid can barely make the two ends meet. On the other hand there is a keen competition between them and officers of European and Eurasian extraction, Steam and electricity have greatly reduced the distance between England and India, and there have consequently been a large influx of needy European youths into this country. The European heads of the departments and offices naturally sympathize with them, and try to shove them in where the employment of natives would be both economical and just. The natives are generally much more efficient than these adventurous European youths; the "hard bargains" of the Financial Department shewed of what they were made; but they could not be avoided. They were connected by family ties with some of the well known Indian officers; they were too lazy to pass the competitive test for the Civil Service, and they were therefore put in places, for which there was no examination, or if there was an examination, it was nominal. Then again the Eurasians are increasing in numbers, and they have *bhaibunds* who as a matter of course seek to serve them. The rivalry of these two classes of candidates for employ have placed the natives at great disadvantage. How often have we been told that preferment now-a-days not only goes by letter and recommendation, but also by birth and connection? How can the poor natives have a chance of success when the nephew of a Governor General or the cousin of a Financial Secretary, or the son of a quandom member of Council has to be provided for? Instances have been brought to our notice of native officers being kept out of the way either by transfer, reduction, degradation, or dismissal in order to make room for some protege of the head of the office. We can believe that as these complaints come through interested channels, they should be received with a large discount, but when they are frequent, we cannot but admit that there must be some substratum of truth in them.

Where the supply is greater than the demand, those who offer their services for employment must be prepared to meet with a sort of treatment, which would not fall to their lot, if the office had sought them but they had not sought the office. The last phenomenon is however inevitable when the young men educated in our schools and colleges cannot find an edequate field for employment, when every line they can look to is overcrowded, when in fact the alternative before them is employment on any terms or starvation. And when their masters know this sad circumstance, they do not as a matter of course feel much consideration for them. These are well aware that if one leaves them, they will probably get a hundred candidates to take his place, and they are consequently indifferent about the feelings of those employed under them. Of course the true gentleman cherishes different feelings, but how many of those, who are at the head of an office or department, entertain or exhibits those feelings, when the subordinates are not of their own color or creed. They simply tolerate the native as it were. Indeed the feeling among them has greatly changed of late years. It is now-a-days greatly tinged by political considerations. The educated natives now compete for the Civil Service, and the success of a few has as might be expected created a jealousy among many members of that service. These feel that their national preserves are being encroached upon, and unable to stem the tide of native progress they seek to put down the natives, who are already under their control. The Haileyburians with all their faults were frank and manly. We had heard that when the intelligence of Babu Satyandranath Tagore's success passed the country, some of them exclaimed in their *ijlas—ham lok ka raj gia*, but they were not the less kind to their native subordinates for that. But many of the new men of the Civil Service are of a different stamp. They do not like the admission of natives into the Civil Service, but as they cannot check their advance, it would seem that their chagrin colors their feelings towards the natives under them. It cannot be concealed that the "coldness" of feeling between the European and the Native, to which Lord Salisbury adverted so strongly at the Cooper's Hill exhibition last year, is becoming more and more settled every year. The result is that the poor native employes suffer more than any other class of the native population. They are immediately under their control, and consequen ly come under the blighting influence of their every-day feelings. The truth is that the life of a nat ve employe now-a-days is anything but enviable. On t e one h nd t e head of the offi e is far fro amiable, and on the other hand if there is a sub-head in the person of an Eurasian officer, the sky of the poor native clerk's fate is perpetually overcast with cloud. Of course t ere a e exceptions he e and there, but the except ons p ove t e rule. The condition of the native emp'oyes in the Mofussil is far worse. Their misfort ne is aggravated by the attitude, wh ch the Go ernm nt has of late assumed in dealing with comp'aints from native employes. If a petit on is submitte l to the local Government the invariable reply is "the Lieutenant Gove nor decl n s to i terfere," "the Lieutenant Governor sees no reason to interfere," or some such st reotyped answer. Perhaps the outside reader, who has no insight into the mysteries of official work, has no idea as to how petitions of this kind are disposed of. Speaking of Bengal we may say that when petitions of this class are laid before the Government, they are n t usually laid before the Governor, though the orders are issued in his name The correspondence clerk with the sanction of the Under-Secretary or the Secretary decides the fate of the petitioner. If the aggrieved however happens to be a European or Eurasian the petition is generally laid before the Lieutenant Governor. We are however glad to learn that this routine has been changed since the accession of the Hon'ble Ashley Eden to Belvedere. He has given orders to the Bengal Secretariat to submit every petition to him for consideration. In some cases he has already reversed the orders of the head of the department or the chief of the office concerned and done justice to the petitioner. In one case we hear that a Munsif as required by law had nominated a candidate for a certain post and applied to the District Judge for confirmation, but the latter appointed a protege of his own. The disappointed candidate made a petition to Government stating that he had been first subjected to an examination by the Munsif before nomination, that he had held some Government appointment before, that under the law the Munsiff had the right of nomination, and the District Judge that of confirmation, that if the latter did not

choose to confirm him for any good and valid reason, he might have refused his sanction, but he had no right to appoint his protege in supercession of the Munsif's nominee. The Lieutenant Governor saw the justice of the reasons urged by the petitioner, and directed the District Judge to cancel at once the appointment of his protege, and appoint the Munsif's nominee instead. There have been a few other cases in which the Lieutenant Governor has upon sufficient grounds reinstated dismissed officers. What the North West Board wrote forty-five years ago holds good to-day—"a large portion of the public servants are under the absolute control of one officer, who have the absolute power of dismissal, and men are consequently often dismissed by caprice and as a punishment." The only remedy for this state of things is the rigid exercise of the authority of Government in the interests of justice. Unfortunately the Government almost invariably says *ditto* to the chief of the office whenever native employes are concerned. Mr. Eden in the few cases, which have come to our knowledge, has shewn his determination to see things with his own eyes and to do justice to the aggrieved. We hope he will go on as he has begun. We cannot conclude without transcribing the following words of the Court of Directors from their Despatch, No. 42 of 1851, in which they reviewed the opinions of the North West Board referred to above:

We would, in conclusion express our hope that the notice we have taken of this subject will have the beneficial effect of inducing the exercise of greater forbearance and a more just consideration on the part of our Civil servants towards the useful and deserving class of men placed in subordination to them. With respect to the most important class of those men namely those receiving salaries of above 10-Rs. a month and to some of whom under certain restrictions pensions are granted upon retirement we think that you might issue instructions that you should be kept advised of the dismissal of all individuals composing that class and of the causes of their dismissal. This would afford an opportunity for inquiry into cases in which the causes might appear unsatisfactory or questionable which does not at present exist. Should any instances unfortunately occur to disappoint the expectation which we have expressed that greater forbearance and justice will be exercised towards the Native servants we desire to be invariably informed of them whether they shall occur in the class above referred to or any other and we shall feel it to be our duty to visit such conduct with the expression of our severe displeasure.

Does the Secretary of State now receive the returns in question? If he does not receive them, he ought to call for them.

LATEST NEWS AND NOTES.

WE ARE requested to announce the following subscriptions in aid of the Science Association:

Babu Rossomoy Roy L. M. S.	Rs.	100
Sreemutty Nonai Dasi ..	,,	100

THE CANNING MEMORIAL Committee may at last hope to get the statue. It has been cast and is being finished. The Committee have received a model in Paris plaster, which is on exhibition at the rooms of the British Indian Association. The horse was made by the late Mr. Foley and the figure by his pupil Mr. Brock.

THE HEARING of the Fenua cases before the High Court was brought to a conclusion on Saturday last. Mr. Woodroffe and Mr. Ghose appeared for the ryots, and Mr. Ingram for the Crown. Mr. Bell did not appear. The case occupied the Court for two days; Mr. Woodroffe defended the ryots with his usual ability. We will not anticipate the judgment of the Court, but if the morning papers will give a full report of the argument on both sides, revelations will come to light, which if we are informed aright will put to the shade all that has yet appeared regarding the Chittagong cases. We are glad to learn that the Court after hearing Mr. Woodroffe intimated that it was satisfied that the charge of misrepresentation of facts, under which it was alleged the petition of the ryots had been made, was entirely without foundation.

WE ARE glad to learn that His Excellency the Viceroy and His Honor the Lieutenant Governo have consented to be patrons of the Calcutta Public Library. We hope that under the august patronage of the heads of the Supreme and Local Governments the institution will fare better than hitherto.

THE INDIAN PUBLIC OPINION calls attention to the misappropriation of local and district funds of the Punjab to objects which ought to be charged to the imperial revenue. The Chowkidari tax in Military Cantonments, though avowedly raised for purposes of the Police, is applied to the support of lock hospitals. Our contemporary says that, "the largest proportion of the income, thus obtained, under what we must admit to be false pretences, is misapplied in the support of lock hospitals which are specially maintained for the *protection of the European soldiers* from infectious disease brought on by their own immorality and vice. If this were not an undeniable fact, we might well have expressed our surprise that a professedly moral Government as ours undoubtedly is, should commit a deliberate breach of faith with its subjects in the misapplication of money wrung out of the poorest classes of its already impoverished subjects. But so it is; and admitting the fact we blush for the hypocrisy of a Government which endeavours to cover acts of injustice and maladministration with the pretentious and flimsy veil of an assumedly high moral tone." We entirely concur.

WE HAVE much pleasure in reproducing the following letter of Major Evans Bell, which appears in the London *Examiner* of the 20th ultimo, received by the last mail:

January 18, 1877.—Sir,—In the *Examiner* of to-day, an opinion is expressed that, by the returns of the Commission for settling the affairs of the Nawab Nazim of Bengal, recently published in the *Gazette of India*, "the characters of the press and the public men of England are composed." As my name is mentioned by you among those who received payment for literary services rendered to the Nawab Nazim you will, perhaps, allow me a brief space to answer for myself. I am quite at a loss to understand by what peculiarity in the case itself, or in my own status, I was precluded from receiving payment for work done. I am not in a position to work without pay. I was requested by the Nawab's agent to prepare a statement of the case; and by the advice of a literary friend I asked and received for my work the usual remuneration for articles in a first-rate quarterly review twenty-five guineas a sheet. There was no secret or anonymous action on my part. My name appeared on the title-page of *The Bengal Reversion*; and in it (p. XXV.) I announced myself to be writing "as advocate in this case, one of a class especially needing advocacy, and accepted for advocacy or advice by some of the most eminent living Judges and counsel." If you can take the trouble to read so much as the "Introduction" to my book, a copy of which is sent herewith, I do not think you will again term the Nawab's claim "preposterous." But "preposterous" or not if there was the shadow of a case for inquiry or reference, there was, on every ground of public utility, as well as private right, a demand for competent advocacy. That demand I believe myself to have supplied, if not with success, at least with some effect. And although an honest advocate is not a judge, and is not bound to express or to hold any personal opinions as to the merits of a case, I am happy to say that my efforts on behalf of the Nawab Nazim were in accordance with my deepest conviction. I carefully reserved the right of keeping my case within certain limits, and so far as I pleaded the Nawab's cause I believe its rejection by our Government to be at once impolitic and iniquitous.

I remain, Sir, faithfully yours,
EVANS BELL.

THE HINDU MELA was opened yesterday. It is creditable to the projector Babu Nobogopal Mitter that the interest is still sustained.

THE cry is not that they come but that they go out. We have already announced that Dr Payne and Mr. Ogilvy have resigned their seats in the Calcutta Municipal Commission. Dr. Pilcher has also resigned. We now hear that the Hon'ble Mr. Schalch, Dr. Smith, and Mr. Cortoys are also about to resign. An elected Commissioner moreover intends to follow suit—we allude to Mr. Gribble. These gentlemen are about to leave the country, and this is the reason we are told why they wish to withdraw from the Corporation. Their resignation is required under the Municipal Act, for absence for six months consecutively disqualifies a Commissioner. We hope this opportunity will be taken to infuse good blood into the Corporation. May we venture to express a hope that the Government will bring back to it the veteran J. B. R. His appointment will give universal satisfaction and prove a source of strength to the Chairman. So far as Mr. Metcalfe is concerned, we have reasons to believe that he would like Mr. Roberts' appointment. Then we are glad to note that Mr. Jennings has accepted a seat in the corporation. He is Master of the Trades' Association, and his appointment shews that this important body is willing to lend its valuable assistance to the Municipality. It will be seen from the above that there will be six vacancies, five Government nominations and one election Can not five Europeans, good men and true, be persuaded to join the Municipal Board? We have named Mr. Roberts, and we will venture to name five others, to wit, Mr. F. F. Wyman, Mr. Bradford Leslie, Mr. Murray, Mr. Macallister, and Mr. Mackenzie c. s.. Mr. F. F. Wyman is already well known for his services to the Municipality; Mr. Bradford Leslie was Engineer to the late Corporation, and his opinions will always carry weight; Mr. Murray is President of the Chamber of Commerce, and will worthily represent the mercantile community; Mr. Macallister is the American Consul, and his practical mind will be of material help to the Commission; Mr. Mackenzie is the best speaker amongst the Bengal Civilians and will make a worthy successor of Mr. Schalch in the Municipal board. If Mr. Bruce Lane as Secretary to the Board could make time to attend municipal meetings, surely Mr. Mackenzie will be able to do likewise. There is no representative of the Parsi community in the Calcutta Municipality. Mr. Manickji Rustomji would be the most suitable representative, but perhaps he would like to see his energetic and promising son Mr. Heerjeebhoy take his place. If these gentlemen would kindly consent to serve on the Municipal board, they would bring an amount of ability, experience and prestige to it, which could not be overrated.

OUR ORISSA CORRESPONDENT sends us the following melancholy intelligence:

"The Maharaja of Dhenkanal Bhagirathi Mahendro Bahadur is dead. He died on Monday last at his fort. This event has cast a gloom around the country. Born in jungle and hill fastnesses of Orissa, amid a wild and half savage race, a portion of which still cover their rudeness with bunches of leaves, Bhagirathi Mahendro was a living spirit of the age. He it was, who first opened a charitable dispensary with English medicines and an assistant Surgeon in his territory, established a middle class anglo-vernacular school for the education of his semi-barbarous people, and connected his state with the Mogulbandi by roads and postal arrangements. It was he who first endowed the Cuttack College (then the High School) to enable Urya boys to join the Presidency College and to compete for University honors and degrees. The two young men who passed the B. A. Examination this year are students of his endowment. To him the local (Cuttack) Printing Press and the newspaper (*Utcal Dipika*) owed their existence, if not their origin; it was through his exertions a carriage company was established in this town. In fact for much of her success intellectual and social improvements Orissa was beholden to him. The following extract from Doctor Hunter's Orissa will give some ideaof this model Chief of Orissa.

"The most interesting among them was the Maharanj of Dhenkanal, with a territory of 1463 square miles, and subject population of 144.255 souls, distributed into 916 villages. He admits a revenue of £6,000 per annum (his total income being probably very much higher), and pays the British Government a tribute of £509 We first came closely in contact with this State in 1812, when we had to settle a dispute which would otherwise have ended in an internecine war. During the first half of the century family feuds and follies reduced the Principality to a miserable state, from which, however, the present chief retrieved it. His excellent management and his charity during the famine of 1866 attracted the admiration of the British Government, three years later he recieved from it the title of Maharaja as a reward for the moderation and justice with which he rules his people. His capital clusters on the slope of a hill to the number of 650 houses, surmounted by a large and strongly built mansion, half fort, half villa, the residence of the chief."

Such was the man, who has been cut off in the hey-day of his career to the almost irretrievable loss of Orissa.

MR. EGERTON succeeds Sir Henry Davies as Lieutenant Governor of the Punjab from the 1st April next. He was connected with the Punjab Commission from the commencement of his career, but this circumstance in the opinion of our contemporary of the *Civil and Military Gazette* disqualifies him for the high office to which he has been nominated. The writer thus expresses himself:

"It seems almost paradoxical to say that, local experience in such a case is an objection rather than a gain but such is the opinion of most people; and we can only account for this prevalent feeling having been formed under *a regime* where the veil of secrecy was lifted from every man's private home and the morality of his domestic life peered into, with as much if not more scrutiny, as the way in which he performed his official functions. This

was one of the crying evils under both Sir Robert Montgomery's, and even Sir Donald MacLeod's administrations, and the fear that it may be perpetuated under that of Mr. Egerton springs from the recollection that he imbibed his early official training under their leadership. We feel sure, however, that Mr. Egerton has himself seen the mischievous results of such a policy, and he will consequently be the last man to commit the fatal error of not discriminating between a man's official worth and ability, and the views he might possibly entertain on religion, or morality.

This a novel objection. Perhaps our contemporary means that Mr. Egerton should not be too saintly. Of course more is meant than meets the ear. For our part we think the destiny of the Punjab may be safely trusted to Mr. Egerton's hands. He is a quiet and hard-working man, and as important financial questions are on the *tapis*, his revenue experience will be of great value to the Government of India.

THE FORTY-SIXTH Annual Exhibition of the Oriental Seminary was held on Saturday last. Sir Alexander Arbuthnot, member of the Supreme Council, presided on the occasion; he was supported on the right by the Hon'ble the Maharaja Narendra Krishna Bahadur, and on the left by Raja Harendra Krishna Bahadur. There was a large gathering of the *elite* of the Native community. The ceremony commenced with certain recitations, in which a young lad of twelve belonging to the well known Mitters of Manicktollah Street, acquitted himself very creditably. His pronunciation, intonation, and address were excellent. The audience were regaled with music, which was a very pleasant diversion. The prizes were distributed by Sir Alexander Arbuthnot; several scholarships were awarded, and there was a shower of gold and silver medals given by some of the leading native gentlemen of this town, and also some ex-students of the Seminary. Sir Alexander then delivered a neat address in which he referred to the lively interest he took in the cause of native education and to his experiences in the education department. It might be remembered that he was the first Director of Public Instruction in Madras under the education despatch of 1854. He advised the Managing Committee of the Seminary to apply to Government for official inspection of its work by the Government Inspectors. The idea is good, but we believe the institution is open to inspection by out-siders and the members of the Committee, and it appears from their reports as well as from the results of the Entrance Examination that the institution is doing very fairly. This is the oldest native school in Calcutta solely under native management. It has been the *alma mater* of many of our educated countrymen, who have taken prominent places in different walks of life.

THERE ARE two charitable institutions of the Roman Catholics in this city, which are working unobstrusively but most beneficially, we mean the Charitable Society of St. Vincent DePaul, and St. Vincent's Home. With small funds at their disposal they are doing great deal of good. We have before us the last annual reports of the two institutions and have read them with great interest. The funds are administered economically and discriminately. We commend the institutions to the support of the charitably-disposed without distinction of creed, for real charity knows no such distinction.

SOME of our contemporaries have been wondering that while Sir Michael Westropp has been speaking so highly of the Civilian Judges of Bombay, Sir Richard Garth makes such a low estimate of their brethren in Bengal. The reason is obvious. In Bombay the judicial and executive services are distinct, and hence the Judges there have better training and experience. Bengal is far behind it in that respect, and hence the shortcomings of the Civilian Judges in this province. But Sir Richard Garth is not singular in his opinion about the merits of the Civilian Judges of Bengal. The Civilian Judges of the Bengal High Court, for instance, Mr. Trevor, Mr. Loch, Sir Charles Hobhouse, Mr. Louis Jackson, Mr. Bayley, had recorded far stronger opinions than Sir Richard Garth has. A selection of these opinions was published by the Government of India we believe about eight or ten years ago.

THE most brilliant Civilian Judge of Madras Mr. Holloway is about to leave the country. The last number of the *Indian Charivari* contains an album portrait of this distinguished officer with the following complimentary notice:

"Madras, we might almost say the whole of India, is about to sustain a loss by the retirement from the Civil Service of Mr Justice Holloway. Arriving in this country from Haileybury in 1849, Mr. Holloway was first stationed at Tanjore, and he soon made a name for himself as a promising officer, so that he was appointed Registrar of the Sudder Court in 1853. Next he went to Malabar, where he made the peculiar laws which prevail in that part of the country his special study, until he knew more about them than any man in the presidency. After some other charges, he was at Calicut in 1859, and was subsequently judge at Tellicherry, from whence he was transferred, though with only about twelve years' service, to the bench of the High Court, thus claiming the distinction of being the youngest Civilian who ever received that honor. His conduct in the Court has, however, fully justified the selection. His judgments have commanded respect throughout India, and have generally been upheld on appeal. He has also published a work on Roman Law, translated from the German. In manners he is somhwhat brusque, and he has occasionally been compared to Dr. Johnson, in consequence of his being seemingly impressed with the idea that his word is law. But socially he is a charming companion with great conversational powers, and a vast fund of information. He is also a good whistplayer. One foible he possesses most strongly developed. He hates the press and all connected with it; but it must be said in honor of the Madras press that thay have never reciprocated the hatred but always admitted the talents and worth of their enemy.

We subscribe to every word of the above.

THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA is drifting back into a spirit of despotism, worse than what prevailed under John Company before the Emancipation of the Press. The Government of India wanted to gag the mouth of the Government Advocate in British Burmah as a contributor to London papers. It appears from a letter from him published in the Rangoon papers that he was asked to refrain from all correspondence with the London Press, or, if he should correspond with any newspaper, he must obtain the special sanction of Lord Lytton and name the newspaper. He was also ordered to abstain from private practice. The result is that Mr. Man, the Government Advocate, has resigned his appointment. Mr. Man has of course acted in a most manly way, but how are we to characterize the action of the Government? To say the least this is not worthy of the enlightened Government which represents free England in the East.

THE FRONTIER Correspondent of the *Statesman* has the following:

Why does not the Government of India inquire categorically into the *cause* and *circumstances* of its present unfriendly and unsatisfactory relations with the Kohat pass Afridees? What was the *reason* of their quarrel with us; when and how did it arise; why did the local Government fail to take the matter up at once and remove the cause; where was the Lieutenant-Governor of the province when it commenced; was he at Simla at one end of his province, or was His Honor at or near the frontier; how long did he remain at Simla; when and under what orders or directions did he finally go to the frontier for the purpose of pacifying the tribes and restoring friendly relation with them; how far has he succeeded in doing so now and after what lapse of time from the commencement of the misunderstanding with them; meanwhile, how long has the border been in a ferment, how many murderous and other raids have been committed in British territory; how many inoffensive British subjects, relying on the protection of the Government, have been killed or kidnapped and carried away into the hills and released on the payment of heavy ransoms; how many head of their cattle have been lifted and carried off into the hills; what amount of property have they lost; why has the pretentious blockade been inoperative for so long a period as nearly a year; who is responsible for all this, and why is the responsibility not enforced; did any local officials give cause of alarm and offence to the Afridees by threatening their independence by insisting on the construction of a good military road through their pass; was not this a positive breach of faith and treaty with them; if it was, then why did not the local Government at once repudiate the error of its border officials, cancel their orders, and thus restore immediate friendly relations with the tribes, and remove their reasonable and natural alarm that their independence was threatened by entering into proper explanations with them and offering them necessary assurances to the contrary; how long and to what extent have British subjects been hurried in furtherance of a mere theory of an admittedly impracticable blockade; why has the peace of the entire border been endangered and the consequent peace of the empire; what would have been the result had England been meanwhile unfortunately involved in a European war; why were not the repeated outrages on British territory, and the lives and property of British subjects promptly and adequately repelled and punished; why was the honor and prestige of the British Government and nation sacrificed thus long; who, among British officials, are to blame for all this; have they been brought to account and punished; if not, why not; why are the tribes continuously fretted into spasmodic outbreaks; why is an attempted veil of mystery and darkness thrown over border and frontier matters; who are interested in concealment and in keeping the veil down, and thus evading public knowledge and criticism, and are these proceedings beneficial to the interests of the British Government and nation?

These are very pertinent questions, but will the Government be kind enough to vouchsafe answers to them. We are afraid that as regards frontier politics there has been the old story over again—meddle and muddle.

WE GIVE below from a London paper the following report of a meeting of the National Indian Association:

"A meeting of ladies and gentlemen interested in the affairs of India was held in the hall of the Society of Arts on Jan. 16, under the presidency of Sir George Campbell, K.C.S.I., M.P., the subject for consideration being "The Employment of Native in the Public Services of India." Mr. Phear (late Judge in the High Court of Judicature, Calcutta) opened the discussion. He commenced by calling attention to the difference between Englishmen and native of India in the performance of public work, contending that advantage had accrued to the people of India from the interference of the English. Precision and exact labour, which before were irksome, were now cultivated, and the native of India quickly indentified himself with the caste or professional community to which he became attached, and participated in the social feelings which animated it. This was conspicuously the case with native judges, who had acquired the high and independent principles which mark the English legal profession, and who emulated in the exercise of their office the impartially and integrity of English judges. This indicated that competent natives were prepared for association with English officers, and for public work on equal terms with them, provided they were brought in on a regular professional course, and so had the means of becoming actuated by a professional *esprit*. The lecture then referred to the ability, shown by the Bengali educated classes, to England's duty to promote the right development of the people, of the bearing of the English in India to the children of the soil; and concluded by insisting for all reasons upon the importance of admitting the natives of the country to an enlarged participation in the administration of public affairs as well as free social intercourse, than at present obtained with the English community in India. Discussion followed, in which Professor Sheldon Amos, Mr. Talbort (Bombay Civil Service), Rajah Ram Pal Singh, Mr. Bose, Mr. Hale, Mr. Dharmarastand (of Ceylon), Madame Romiger, Mr. Macnin, Mr. Shall, and Mr. Ahmed took part. The lecturer replied to some remarks, and the chairman brought the meeting to a close by a brief speech, in the course of which he pointed out that the tendency of the British rule in India was in the present day in the direction of admitting natives to the public service of India. Votes of thanks to the lecturer and chairman closed the proceedings.

The *Bombay Gazette* gives a full report of the meeting, from which we give the following pertinent observations of Sir George Campbell:

He could not agree in the view of Rajah Ram Pal Singh, that only the aristocracy should be admitted to the Civil Service; for that argument was equivalent to saying in England—"Don't make Judges and Chancellors of wretched graduates of Oxford and Cambridge, who only after 20 or 30 years' hard labor gain a considerable position at the Bar; but take the sons of lords and great men, and make them Judges and Chancellors." It would be a great mistake to act upon such a principle in England, but it would be a much greater mistake in India where the sons of the aristocrats had no opportunity of going to public schools, and were brought up under great disadvantages. In short, admission to the public service must not be a matter of privilege but a matter of merit. As for the question of promotion to the highest point, let the rule be that where a Native showed such distinguished merit as fitted him for such a responsible position, let him be put in it. They must begin by habituating the Natives to the local government, and when they were qualified for that they would gradually attain competency for higher things. It was a great evil that our Government had unfortunately destroyed the very effective system of self-government which had prevailed in India; and therefore we ought to encourage the Native gentlemen to fulfil the duties of magistrates, and heads of communities in towns; so to manage their own affair.

We are glad to see that Mr. Phear's interest in Indian affairs has not ceased with the cessation of his official connection with this country. We reserve comments till we receive Mr. Phear's paper.

THE SYLHET CORRESPONDENT of the *East* has the following:

Mr. Hall, the Manager of the Patarea Tea Estate in this District, has been sentenced to pay a fine of Rs 500 (five hundred) by the Deputy Commissioner. The sum and substance of the case runs thus:—

Mr. Hall procured a lot of non-agreement coolies from Cachar and promised to pay some of them at the rate of four annas per diem, but in course of time they found that they were not paid in accordance with the promise made. They would in fact get Rs 2, 2-4 and 2-8 and not more, a month, besides some rice given daily. They complained several times of the insufficiency of their remuneration and

wanted to go back to Cachar whence they were brought down, but without any effect. In this way they lived there for about eight months after which period they one day, in a body went to the Manager and expressed their unwillingness to serve any longer in his garden, but this time also no heed was paid to their words. The poor fellows finding no other alternative, left the garden one day, without telling any body about it but unfortunately they were caught on their way by the garden Chowkidars and brought to the Shaheb who, no doubt, directed them to attend to their respective duties. They now clearly found out the difficulty of their position and one more sensible among them asked the Manager, a few days after the above occurrence, to permit him to go to Cachar on business, but being refused to do so, he expressed a desire to leave his family in the garden as guarantee of his return and on this condition he was set free. The man came direct to Sylhet and lodged a complaint of wrongful confinement against the Manager and some of his men, before the Deputy Commissioner, who ordered to hold a police enquiry into the matter. An Inspector was deputed to investigate the case and the report submitted by him corroborated the statement made by the complainant beforehand. Mr. Hall was therefore summoned to answer the charge brought against him. The witnesses on both the sides were examined. One and all of the witnesses for the prosecution vouched for the correctness of the complainant's statement. In short the case for the prosecution was pretty fairly established. Of course, Mr. Hall's men gave a different version of the case. He himself as also the witnesses for the defence denied *intoto* of any knowledge as to the wrongful detention of coolies. The straightforwardness of the complainant's witnesses in giving their evidence, thoroughly convinced the Deputy Commissioner of the truthfulness of the charge. He accordingly to meet the ends of justice punished Mr. Hall and three of his people. The latter had to pay a fine of Rs. 60 each Mr. Hall on some previous occasion was also find Rs. 200 on nearly a similar charge. The case would have, no doubt, been *phoo phooed*, if it had been on the file of any other European Judge. Mr. Clay really deserves praise for his love of justice.

We have always held that the law gives no fair play to laborers on tea estates in lodging complaints. The provision that a laborer on leaving plantation may be arrested with or without warrant is nothing more nor less than a copy of the fugitive-slave law of America, and although we have repeatedly urged its abolition, the Legislature has never ventured to touch it. Even Sir George Campbell fun'ed at it. Such is the influence of the tea interest!

THE VERNACULAR PRESS.

The *Shomoprokash* expresses his disappointment at the perusal of the draft of the consolidated Abkari Bill. There is not a single provision in the bill which aims at discouraging or prohibiting the use of intoxicating drinks and drugs, but the whole aim is to increase and protect the Abkari revenue. He exhorts the legislature to provide for the closing of the sudder distilleries and leave the supply to be regulated by demand, the revenue being realised in the same way as revenue from imported salt is derived. As for illicit manufacture the strongest enforcement of the law will be sufficient to to prevent it.

The *Bharut Meheer* referring to the proposed increase of four additional districts in Bengal observes that a rumour is rife in these parts about the district of Mymensing being split into two divisions and formed into two distinct zillahs, and that Mr. Secy. Reynolds had some communications on the subject with the District Magistrate. This rumour gains credit from the fact of Noakholly having been lately raised to the status of a first class district. Tirhoot was the largest district under the Government of Bengal and hence Tirhoot was broken up into two districts. Now after Tirhoot Mymensing is the second large district, but the reasons which justified the splitting up of Tirhoot into two districts do not apply to Mymensing. There are now three sub-divisions in Mymensing, the creation of a fourth subdivision with head quarters at Netrokona will obviate all inconvenience to the people. Then we think of the economical proposal of the Judge of Mymensing to abolish the Moonsifi of Sherepore and put the people to incredible hardships in order to save the pay of a Munsif and contrasting with Sir Richard Temple's proposal to split Mymensings into two districts to provide for brother civilians we can with difficulty surpass a smile.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

MOFUSSIL SUBSCRIPTIONS.	Rs.	As.	P.
Secretary, Kurrachee, Native General Library	6	10	0
Secretary, Baroda Camp, Reading Room.....	13	4	0
Guzranwalla Public Library	5	9	0
Foot Reading Room and Library, Bombay	13	4	0
Secundrabad Reading Room and Library	10	0	0
Babu Kailyprosono Mookerjee, Baraset.....	13	4	0
,, Nemychuru Mojoomdar, Benares.....	13	4	0
,, Hurrokally Mookerjee, Manickgung	13	4	0
,, Rajkrisana Mookerjee, Durbungan.....	13	4	0
,, Monohur Mookerjee, Buddybatty	20	0	0
,, Radhicapersad Singh, Dum-Dum.....	1	4	0
,, Rooplal Das, Dacca.....	13	4	0
,, Troylackunath Chuckerbutty, Beerbhoom	2	6	0
,, Dhonoath Mojoomdar, Darjeeling.....	13	4	0
,, Preonath Mitter, Rangoon	10	0	0
,, Upendradeva Narain Sinha, Gopalpore	30	0	0
,, Burrodachurn Ghose, Umballa.....	5	0	0
,, Hitalal Misser, Umballa.....	10	0	0
,, Baneymadhub Roy, Banda.....	6	10	0
,, Aubinaschunder Banerjee, Agra.....	10	0	0
,, Bisseswur Baattacharjee, Kotah	5	0	0

ERRATUM.

Read Biresser Chuckerbutty, Hazareebaugh, in lieu of Baneshur Chuckerbutty 13 4 0

Government Notifications.

Calutta Gazette.—*February* 14, 1877.

GENERAL.—*The 3rd February* 1877.—The Sub-divisional Officer of Serampore is vested with powers under Clause 7, Section 19, Act XXII of 1864 to try all breaches of the rules framed under the Act committed on the Serampore side of the river Hooghly.

The 7th February 1877.—Baboo Dibi Prosad, Sub-Deputy Collector, Sonthal Pergunnahs, is transferred to Begoo Serai, in Monghyr.

Moulvi Serajul Huq. Sub-Deputy Collector, is posted to Deoghur, in the Sonthal Pergunnahs.

Baboo Banka Behary Buxee is appointed to act as a Sub-Deputy Collector of the First Grade at Deoghur, in the Sonthal Pergunnahs, during the absence, on deputation, of Baboo Shama Churn Mitter, or until further orders.

Moulvi Mahomed Azim is appointed to act as a Sub-Deputy Collector of the Second Grade at Kissengunge, in Purneah, during the absence, on deputation, of Mr. F. McL. Smith, or until further orders.

Baboo Ram Narvan Banerjee is appointed to act as a Sub-Deputy Collector of the Second Grade at Mudhepoora, in the district of Bhagulpore, during the absence, on deputation, of Moulvi Zakir Hossein, or until further orders.

Baboo Sant Prosad Sub-Deputy Collector at Kissengunge, is transferred to Jamui, in the district of Monghyr

Mr. T. B. Lane, Secretary to the Board of Revenue, is appointed to be Collector of Customs, Calcutta, *vice* Mr. J. A. Crawford, who is about to retire.

The Hon'ble H. J. Reynolds is appointed to be a Secretary to the Board of Revenue, *vice* Mr. T. B. Lane, but will continue to act as a Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

Mr. J. Geoghegan c.s., on furlough, is appointed to be a Secretary to the Board of Revenue, *vice* Mr. H. J. Reynolds.

Mr. A. Mackenzie, Officiating Magistrate and Collector, Moorshedabad, is appointed to act as a Secretary to the Board of Revenue during the absence, on duty, of Mr. H. J. Reynolds, or until further orders.

Mr. A. C. Mangles, Magistrate and Collector, Patna, is appointed to act as Opium Agent of Behar during the absence, on leave, of Mr. H. W Alexander, or until further orders.

Mr. H. F. J. Kean, Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Gya, is appointed to be a Magistrate and Collector of the Second Grade *vice* Mr. J. Geoghegan.

Mr. Kean will act as a Magistrate and Collector of the First Grade in Patna during the absence, on duty of Mr. A. C. Mangles, or until further orders

The 8th February 1877.—Moulvi Fyzullah Khan, Special Sub-Deputy Collector, Chittagong Hill Tracts, is appointed, as a temporary measure, to be a Sub-Deputy Collector of the Second Grade for land registration work in Chittagong.

The orders of the 29th ultimo, granting to Mr. T. E. Coxhead, Officiating Political Agent, Hill Tipperah, leave for three months, under the rules in Chapter VII of the Civil Leave Code are cancelled.

The 10th February 1877.—Baboo Lolit Mohun Chatterjee, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Maldah, is appointed to have charge of the Gobindpore division of the Manbhoom district.

Captain Samuell Hunter Cowan, Assistant Superintendent of Revenue Survey, is vested with the powers of a Deputy Collector under Act (B.C) of 1875 in the district of Shahabad.

Subject to the approval of the Government of India, Baboo Chundi Chunder Bose, Officiating Deputy Magistre and Collector of Mymensingh, is appointed temporarily to be Special Deputy Collector for the purpose of surveying and registering Nizamut lands, with effect from the date on which he relieves Mr. W. Lane.

Baboo Chundi Charan Bose is vested with the powers of a Collector under Regulations VII of 1822 and IX of 1825, in the district of Moorshedabad.

Mr. C. C. Quinn, Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector Burdwan, is appointed to act, until further orders, as Magistrate and Collector of Furreedpore.

Mr. A. C. Brett, Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, on leave, is posted to Burdwan. Mr. Brett. will act in the First Grade of Joint-Magistrates and Deputy Collectors.

Lieutenant G. U. Browne, 40th Foot, is appointed to be an Aide-de-Camp on the personal staff of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal

Baboo Bhobotosh Banerjee, Sub-Deputy Collector, Julpigoree, is appointed temporarily to be a Deputy Collector for employment on road cess work in the district of Darjeeling. Baboo Bhobotosh Banerjee is vested with the powers of a Collector under Act X (B.C.) of 1871 in Darjeeling.

Moulvi Wajeeoddeen, Canongo, First Grade, Rajshahye is appointed temporarily to be a Sub-Deputy Collector in the district of Julpigoree.

The 13th February 1877.—Mr. J. Pratt, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector Mymensing is appointed to act as Magistrate and Collector of that district during the absence, on leave, of Mr. R. H. Pawsey, or until further orders.

Mr. A. Barooah, Assistant Magistrate and Collector, Dinagepore, is transferred to Burdwan.

Mr. E R. Godfrey, Deputy Magistrate and Deputy Collector, in charge of the Raneegunge Division of the Burdwan district, is transferred to Dinagepore.

Mr. H. Savage, Assistant Magistrate and Collector, Beerbhoom, is appointed to have charge of the Raneegunge Division of the Burdwan district.

Mr. Ameer Ali, Barrister-at-law, who was, under the orders of the 6th instant, appointed to act as a Magistrate of Police, Calcutta, is also appointed to act as Coroner of Calcutta during the absence, on leave, of Mr. F. J. Marsden or until further orders.

Mr. F. D. Dickons, Magistrate of Police, Calcutta, is also appointed to act as Judge of the Court for the trial of pilots during the absence, on leave, of Mr. F. J. Marsden or until farther orders.

Mr. George E. Porter, Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Shahabad, is allowed furlough for 18 months under Section 12 of the Civil leave Code, with effect from the 23rd April together with subsidiary leave for twenty days from the 2nd idem.

Mr. L. R. Tottenham, District and Sessions Judge, Midnapore, is allowed furlough for eight months under Section 12 of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the 1st May 1877, together with ten days' subsidiary leave, under Section 24 of the Code.

Mr. J. Pratt, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Mymensingh, is allowed leave for one month under the rules in Chapter VII of the Civil Leave Code with effect from the 1st March 1877.

POLICE.—*The 8th February* 1877.—Mr. C. E. Faber-Tonnerre, Assistant Superintedent of Police, Dinagepore, is allowed privilege leave for three months under the rules in Chapter VII of the Civil Leave Code, with effect from the date on which he availed himself of it.

Colonel W. R. Gordon, District Superintendent of Police Nuddea, is appointed to act as a Deputy Inspector-General of Police during the absence, on duty of Colonel A. H. Paterson, or until further orders.

Mr. A. Blair, Officiating District Superintendent of Police Jessore, is appointed to act until further orders as District superintendent of Police, Nuddea.

Mr. J B. Birch, Officiating District Superintendent of Police, Pubna, is appointed to act until further orders as District Superintendent of Police, Jessore.

Mr. E St. George Kaye, Officiating Assistant Superintendent of Police, Jessore, is appointed to have temporary charge of the Office of District Superintendent of Police, Jessore, until relieved by Mr. J. B. Birch.

The 12th February 1877.—Mr. J. H. Warender Clark is appointed to be an Assistant Superintendent of Police for, employment on special duty in Backergunge and Noakholly with effect from the 11th November last.

Advertisements.

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THE TREATMENT OF UNIVERSAL POISONS.

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Chooramun in Malda.

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I once tried your excellent medicine (Amritarasa) in chronic Headache, and the infallible result duly communicated to you. Now I have much pleasure to inform you again that I have tested its efficacy in some cases of Chronic Fever and Spleen with wonderful effect.

I have also cured 8 Cholera cases by your valuable pills—it is the only best reliable remedy yet found.

Rajendra Nath Datta,
Secy. of Rama N. P. Club.

I have much pleasure to inform you that I have been able to cure 50 cases out of 51, who were suffering under complicated diseases. In conclusion I assure you that your Amritarasa is a very efficacious medicine, and the further circulation of it is indispensibly requisite.

Purno Chunder Banerjea,
Member of Chinsurah Club.

One phial of your Amritarasa has done a good deal of good to my younger brother, who was suffering from a long time under Dysentery, Chronic Fever and Spleen. The 1st and 2nd diseases have altogether disappeared, and the Spleen is much better, and hope, will be cured in another battle.

Dukhina Perda Roy Chowdhry,
Mohesrakha.

A phial of your Amritarasa was bought by me, and given to a woman who was suffering too much from Chronic Fever and other complicated diseases; and I am very glad to inform you that she is wonderfully cured by the use of the same.

Bonomally Paul.
Goonotea *via* Sainthia.

Last year by using your valuable Amritarasa. I am perfectly cured of Chronic Colic pain (sool), from which I suffered.

Joygobind Dutt,
Jatanpookhu *via* Jalpaiguri.

Your Amritarasa is very efficacious. My friend was suffering from fever for 7 years, from Spleen for 5 years and from Dysentery for 1 year, and was exceedingly weak. He used one phial of your Amritarasa, and is much better now The fever is cured, ¾th of the Spleen is reduced, and in place of about 12 bloody stools daily he has 2 or 3 motions now without blood.

Jogendra Chunder Bosu,
Ghutiabazar, Hugli.

Since a year I had been suffering from fever and cough. Having tried in vain various native and European medicines, I was at last completely cured by using your widely known Amritarasa.

Romanath Banerjea,
Huripur, Zillah Dinagepoor.

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Burneshw rMaookerjea,
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Missirpokhar, Benares.

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Sd. W. R. LARMINE.
Magistrate of Bankura.

I am very glad to say that your Cholera pills have cured all the 10 cases in which they were administered.

(Sd.) D. V. SAPRAY,
Bankipur.

I am requested by the Maharaja of Burdwan to inform you that during the recent outbreak of Cholera in this place, your pills were tried in several cases which occurred among the servants of His Highness and were found to be efficacious. In all these cases the medicine was administered in the early stage of the disease but in one case in which it was administered to a patient who was in an advanced stage it was powerless and the man died.

(Sd.) T. B. MILLER,
Private Secretary.

Your Cholera pills are really infallible. Not being a professional man I was afraid to try your medicine at first, but I administered it in 3 cases given up by the Doctors as hopeless. Two of the patients recovered quickly within 6 hours by using only two pills each. The other a child took one pill which stopped his purging, vomitting, perspiration and spasm and caused a discharge of urine, but unfortunately at this stage his parents gave him some other medicine. The result was the disease relapsed and the child died.

(Sd.) BIPIN BEHARI DUTT,
Station Master Doomraw.

The few Cholera pills that you kindly gave me when I went to Gya in the Cholera season, have wonderfully saved the lives of 13 persons from that fatal disease.

(Sd.) RAMCHUNDER PUNDIT,
Sanscrit College, Benares.

I have to inform you that I could not give a fair trial to your medicine during the late outbreak of cholera here. Strictly speaking I treated 2 cases exclusively with your pills and found them efficacious.

I tried the pills in 10 more cases when they had already had other medicines and their disease had sufficiently advanced. However I am glad to say that those that had the fortune to live for some hours after the administration of your medicine, had the action of their kidny established, though mostly died subsequently. Of these ten cases only 2 actually recovered.

From this short trial I cannot arrive at any conclusion though I do not feel myself disappointed.

(Sd.) KHURGESHUR BOSE,
Asst. Surgeon Akyab.

I have much pleasure to say that I have been able to cure 80 cholera cases out of 86 by the use of Babu Hem Chunder Banerjea's Cholera pills in 1875. All these cases were personally treated by me gratis among the Pilgrims. On the subject I have been examined by the Civil Surgeon of Benares who has retained the papers in which the result of my treatment is recorded.

(Sd.) GOPINATH SOOKUL,
Benares.

Last month the Cholera Pills brought from you, were administered to 6 patients, and am very glad to say that all of them were perfectly cured. Cholera medicine, like this, has not yet been discovered All the patients were cured within six hours.

Gopal Chunder Banerjea,
Native Doctor, Chupra.

Your Cholera medicine is the best one yet discovered. Many persons were cured by its use.

Parmeshwar Bedratna,
Umbica Rajbatty, Kulna.

The good effect of your Cholera Pills cannot be expressed in writing. It was tried in 18 cases among the coolies here. I am very glad to say that all of them have recovered without a single failure.

Moheeooddeen,
In charge, Tea Garden, Koorkurea.

The Cholera Pills sent by you were administered to 5 patients, and the result is that all of them have been cured.

Radha Bulove Sing Deb,
Zemindar, Bankura.

Many thanks for the Cholera Pills you kindly sent me I have tried it in several cases with successful result.

Zahurul Hossain,
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